

# MARTYR MONTHLY

## MARCH 2024



*Happy Easter*

**WORSHIP AT SSM**

**SATURDAY AT 5:00PM**

**SUNDAY AT 9:30AM\***

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM**

**MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES:**

**HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER WEDNESDAYS 6:30PM\***

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 28TH 6:30PM\***

**GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29TH 6:30PM\***

**EASTER VIGIL, SATURDAY, MARCH 30TH 5:00PM**

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE, MARCH 31ST 7:00AM\***

**EASTER MORNING, SUNDAY, MARCH 31ST 9:30AM\***

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

# Pastor's Page

Dear Faith Community,

I think I have the spring fever. It is mid-February and surprisingly the temperatures are in the 50's. I see people wearing shorts and pitchers and catchers have reported to camp for spring training. It is nice to have glimpses of warmth in winter.



The church season of Lent continues through the month of March. Lent sometimes feels like spring. Easter is on the horizon, yet we're still in the midst of our Lenten disciplines. We might struggle to be more reflective, to value the good and let go of what is unhealthy. But we may wonder if there ever be a payoff?

We might have certain challenges as times, and it might feel like you can't catch a break. The "to do" list gets longer, the bills pile up and we might forget healthy habits and opt for the path of least resistance. And it is hard when love ones are ill.

As we journey from winter to spring, I know that hope is on the horizon. I know that shoots of green will soon appear from the ground. Slowly flowers will start to bloom, and there will be some yellow and white blooms near the church.

Warmer days are ahead. As we continue through Lent, perhaps we should start looking for those small signs of hope in our own lives. They are different for each of us, of course, but they all point to a future of warmth. For us Christians, we need only look to the cross for a sign of the coming resurrection of Easter.

As we continue through Lent, there is a midweek break on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. We sing together Holden Evening Prayer and hear congregation member faith stories. 2/21-Debbie Barth 2/28-Jenny Resterhouse 3/6-Patti Nelson 3/13-Cathy Peterson 3/20-Al Behling.

Peace, Pastor Brian

# Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Pastor's Ordination and Mardi Gras Fund Raiser for the Youth Trip



Congratulations Pastor




Join us for our next feast and youth fundraiser at the  
Easter Breakfast  
8:00am Easter Morning, March 31



# Human Concerns

The colorful special offering envelopes you received are used to support specific ministries throughout the year. Each ministry receives 60% of the total offerings from those envelopes. The following ministries will benefit from your gifts in 2024.

Ash Wednesday:	ELCA Disaster Response	
Lent:	Outreach for Hope	
Palm Sunday:	Lutheran Social Services	
Maundy Thursday:	ELCA World Hunger	
Good Friday:	Bread of Healing Clinic at Cross Lutheran Church	
Easter:	Mbaaseny Parish	
Thanksgiving:	Hunger Task Force	
Christmas (1/2 each):	Faith Santa Fe Lutheran Church	
	Unity Lutheran Church	

You may notice that ELCA Good Gifts is not listed to receive a portion of the offering for Christmas. In 2023 \$1,060 was raised through the sale of Good Gifts ornaments. We will continue to support them with the money raised from the sale of Good Gifts ornaments in 2024. Also please be aware that you can make these special donations using the Vanco mobile app. A line for each special giving item will be listed as the time approaches.

Food donations for March will be directed to Faith Santa Fe Lutheran Church. Faith Santa Fe's food pantry provides food to 50 families on a weekly basis. Please continue to support this partner congregation with non-perishable food items. If you prefer, monetary donations can also be made. Please make sure you indicate **Food Pantries**. Thank you!



*For Googler*



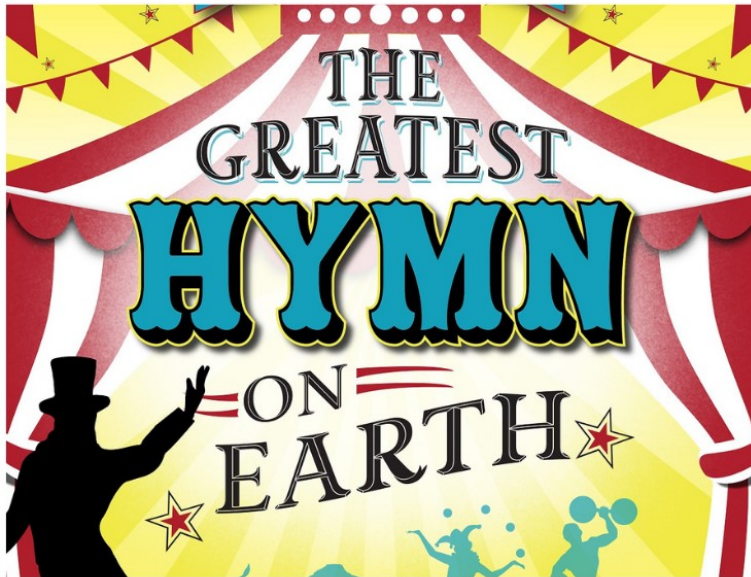
*For iPhone*



*Thank you to everyone who donated to the coat collection and sock/underwear collection. Your generosity was greatly appreciated by Bay View Community Center and Unity Lutheran Church. We will resume this mission again next winter.*



# CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN THEATRE PRESENTS:



At St. Stephen the Martyr  
on  
Saturday, March 16th  
At 5:00pm  
During Worship  
Great for children of all ages

# RIC Team Update

**ReconcilingWorks**  
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



**Greetings Faith Family,**  
During this year's Annual Meeting held on January 28<sup>th</sup>, the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Team presented the

following welcome statement to the congregation.

**St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church is a spiritual community grounded in the belief of Welcoming All, Worshiping God, Serving Others.**

**Recognizing that there are those who have historically experienced rejection within congregational life, we strive to welcome and affirm the participation of all people into our community of faith – people of all ages, ethnic and racial backgrounds, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical and mental abilities, educational backgrounds, family status, and financial conditions.**

**We are driven to be a welcoming congregation, offer a safe place to worship, and celebrate diversity of God's family. We invite all people to join us in our faith journey toward greater love, understanding and mutual respect.**

**We proclaim that we are an Open and Affirming congregation and you are absolutely invited to join us.**

Please contact Jason Covert, Pastor Brian or any member of the RIC Team if you have any questions or a suggested edit to our welcome statement.

The RIC Team is planning another series of informational meetings to allow for more dialogue and build a greater understanding around this journey. We encourage everyone to open their hearts to hear what God is calling us to achieve.



# Book Club

There will be a congregational book study. We will be reading: ***Unclobber: Rethinking our misuse of the Bible on homosexuality***. In April the plan is to have two study groups, one that will meet midweek on Zoom and another group on Sunday following worship. The church has purchased twenty-five books, but feel free to get your own copy if you would like to start reading.

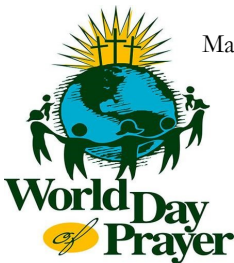


## Community Easter Egg Hunt



Join us for another year of egg-tastic fun at SSM's Community Egg Hunt on Saturday March 16, from 1-3pm. There will be crafts, cookies, goodie bags, an Easter Story scavenger hunt and lots of eggs to find! Help is needed for this event, let Alex Dollar know if you're available to run a station. Sign up papers are located on the bulletin board by the restrooms.

## Special Days in March

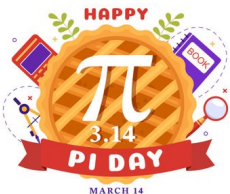


March 2nd



Oscar Night  
March 10th

Ramadan begins at  
sundown  
March 11



March 17th



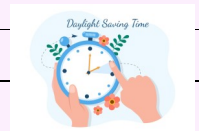
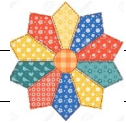
March 19th



2024

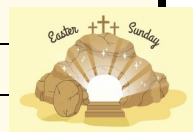


<i>3rd Weekend of Lent</i>		
<b>Saturday, 3/2</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	Worship
<b>Sunday, 3/3</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Worship
		Sunday School
<b>Monday, 3/4</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>	Bible Study
<b>Wednesday, 3/6</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Men's Bible Study
	<b>5:30pm</b>	Handbell Choir
	<b>6:30pm</b>	Worship, Holden Evening Prayer/Faith Statements
	<b>7:00pm</b>	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thursday, 3/7</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>	Quilting - Cut & Sew - until 3:00pm
	<b>6:30pm</b>	Confirmation Class
<i>4th Weekend of Lent</i>		
<b>Saturday, 3/9</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	Worship
<b>Sunday, 3/10</b>	<i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i>	
	<b>9:30am</b>	Worship
		Sunday School
	<b>10:45am</b>	Coffee Hour
<b>Wednesday, 3/13</b>	<b>10:15am</b>	Women's Bible Study
	<b>5:30pm</b>	Handbell Rehearsal
	<b>6:30pm</b>	Worship, Holden Evening Prayer/Faith Statements
	<b>7:00pm</b>	Choir Rehearsal





<i>5th Weekend of Lent</i>		
<b>Saturday 3/16</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	Worship
	<b>1:00pm</b>	Community Easter Egg Hunt - until 3:00pm
<b>Sunday, 3/17</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Worship
		Sunday School
<b>Monday, 3/18</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>	Quilting - Layering - Until 3:00pm
<b>Wednesday, 3/20</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Men's Bible Study
	<b>5:30pm</b>	Handbell Rehearsal
	<b>6:30pm</b>	Worship, Holden Evening Prayer/Faith Statements
	<b>7:00pm</b>	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thursday, 3/21</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	Confirmation Class
<i>6th Weekend of Lent</i>		
<b>Saturday, 3/23</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	Worship
<b>Sunday, 3/24</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Palm Sunday Worship - Passion Sunday
		Sunday School
	<b>10:45am</b>	Coffee Hour
<b>Wednesday, 3/27</b>	<b>10:15am</b>	Women's Bible Study
	<b>5:45pm</b>	Handbell Rehearsal
	<b>7:00pm</b>	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thursday, 3/28</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	Maundy Thursday Worship
<b>Friday, 3/29</b>	<b>2:00pm</b>	Cross Walk starting at St. Thomas of Canterbury
	<b>3:00pm</b>	Ecumenical Worship at St. Alphonsus
	<b>6:30pm</b>	Good Friday Worship
<b>Saturday, 3/30</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil Worship
<b>Sunday, 3/31</b>	<b>7:00am</b>	Prayer Garden Easter Sunrise Worship
	<b>8:00am</b>	Easter Breakfast
	<b>9:30am</b>	Easter Worship



# News From Meru

“Shalom sister Julie and SSM, happy to hear about the young people who go to New Orleans, may they arrive safely and return safely. I wish them good luck.” Our partner pastor, Pastor Nnko shared the above greeting with us at the end of January. He also shared that their sheep project (pictured) is going well. Our partners are also growing coffee beans, bananas and avocados. Rain has returned on the mountain (where our partners are) but drought is still significant in the southern region of the Diocese.



Pastor Nnko also shared that beginning in early May they will begin fundraising for continued work on the new worship space at Mbaaseny. Their goal is 45 million t-shillings (\$18,000 US) to finish the brick and cement sides and to build an altar. Windows will go in later.

Our scholarship students are doing well. Pendo has finished secondary school at Ailanga and will move onto college. Victoria has completed studies at Leki, next steps to be determined. And Baraka, our 1<sup>st</sup> scholarship student, will finish tourism college in May. We will continue to share scholarship funds with Mbaaseny supporting students in need. Pastor Nnko asked for prayers as they hope to “increase the project...and help girls who are stuck...” Stay tuned as I learn more, I will share with you!

## Loose Ends Lunch



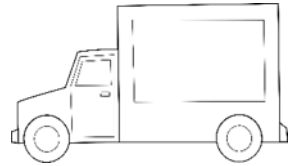
The March Loose Ends Lunch will be held at Famous Dave's BBQ located at 5077 S. 27th Street at 12:00 noon. Please let Bonnie Daleness know if you plan to attend so that reservations can be made.



# Opportunities at Faith Santa Fe

Faith Santa Fe is one of our urban partners, located at 1000 S. Layton Blvd, Milwaukee (just south of National Ave). They have reopened their weekly food pantry providing 50 families with groceries each Saturday. They could use some volunteers to assist with grocery prep!

**DRIVER** – Faith Santa Fe owns a box truck (small U-Haul type truck, no special license required to drive it) used to pick up food from a warehouse on East Capitol Drive and drive it back to Faith Santa Fe. There would be some lifting while loading and unloading the truck. Time commitment would be 9am-11am on Thursdays. Could be weekly or 1-3x each month.



**FOOD PACKING** – 1-2 people needed to help set out grocery bags and fill with non-perishable items. Time commitment, 1-2 hours on Friday mornings, 10-12 at Faith Santa Fe.

Both opportunities allow us to develop our partnership and get to know this young and growing partner congregation.

**YOUTH GUITAR LESSONS** – Victor, church musician at FSF, offers free guitar lessons on Tuesday evenings, 5pm, at the church. They have room for 3 more students and can provide guitars as well.



**For more information on any of these opportunities, please contact Julie Starks, [jastarks39@gmail.com](mailto:jastarks39@gmail.com). 414-254-2533**

## Thrivent Choice Dollars



A big thank you to those of you who forwarded your Choice Dollars during 2023. If you still have 2023 dollars that have not been designated you have until March 31, 2024 to do this. These dollars help SSM and our community to do good. You can direct your Choice Dollars on the internet or by calling 1-800-847-4836. Please be reminded that it is not necessary to wait until the end of the calendar year to donate your Choice Dollars to SSM. These dollars can be donated throughout the year as they are earned.

# Meet Our New Members

My name is **Julia Suchy**. I have been involved in church most of my life. I went to a Lutheran college, and have been involved in Lutheran churches since then. I have three grown children and two grandchildren. I live in Greenfield and work for Advocate Aurora Healthcare as a Patient Service Representative in a clinic in Franklin. I have previously taught piano lessons (over 30 years), was a business manager for a nonprofit community chorus and taught early childhood. My favorite food is lobster, but I seldom eat it. I pretty much just like food. My hometown is Hastings-on-Hudson, NY in the NYC area. I have also lived in the Buffalo, NY area, Roanoke, VA, The Woodlands, TX (near Houston) and have been in Wisconsin since 1999. I enjoy spending time with family, playing and listening to music, taking walks and cooking. My decision to join SSM was influenced by the friendliness of everyone here, the music ministry, welcoming all to communion and interest in becoming a Reconciling in



**Michael and Vanessa Weber** have been married for seven years which has brought them a lot of adventures and two kiddos, Peyton (4) and Archie (2)... no they are not named for the Manning family, although they are big football fans and root for the Packers. Michael works for the Boot Connection in Greenfield running their industrial sales. He also enjoys cooking and spoils the family with delicious meals. Vanessa is a local photographer and day-lights as a music theatre voice teacher at UW-Milwaukee while also music directing and performing in local musical productions. Peyton started 4K this year and loves school. She also attends dance and swim lessons and loves dressing up in sparkly, spinny dresses. Archie enjoys playing with trains and cars while he eagerly awaits big sister to be done with her morning studies. He loves his gymnastics class and swim lessons and doing whatever Peyton is doing. Family days include going on hikes, visiting the farmer's market, or playing at the playground. They are so excited to be joining St. Stephen the Martyr for the community of people and the welcoming nature of the church.





# Meet Our New Members Continued

Emily Reinholz (not pictured) came to SSM following the recommendation of her mother Julia. Emily is an MPS music teacher who is both teaching and living in Bay View. Her husband Patrick is also an MPS music teacher. Felix is 6 and enjoys piano, swimming, soccer, and video games. Zola is 3 and loves pink, squishmallows, and Bluey.



## Lent and Holy Week Worship At St. Stephen the Martyr



**Holden Evening Prayer and Faith Statements**

**Wednesday Evenings at 6:30pm**

**March 6th - Faith Statement by Patti Nelson**

**March 13th - Faith Statement by Cathy Peterson**

**March 20th - Faith Statement by Al Behling**

**Maundy Thursday Worship - Living Last Supper Drama**

**Thursday, March 28th - 6:30pm**

**Good Friday, March 29**

**Cross Walk beginning at St. Thomas of Canterbury - 2:00pm**

**Ecumenical Worship at St. Alphonsus - 3:00pm**

**St. Stephen the Martyr Worship - 6:30pm**



**Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 30 - 5:00pm**

**Easter, March 31st**

**Sunrise Prayer Garden Worship - 7:00am**

**Easter Worship - 9:30am**

# Sound System Upgrades



At the annual meeting in January, the congregation voted to move forward with a project to upgrade the church building's sound system. The project is estimated at just below \$60,000, half of which will be covered by existing reserve funds. The project includes improvements in the sanctuary, gathering space, and fellowship hall, as well as

with our streaming capabilities. If you would like to contribute to this project, please note "sound system" on the "other" line of your weekly envelope. Donations can also be made through the Vanco app.

## Happy Birthday!

		Keri Whitmore	22
Adam Mildren	02	Nichol Manning	22
Pat Schroeder	03	Annika Tanke	26
Shirley Lieske	07	Hannah Tanke	27
Orlando Dean	10	Betty Kroll	28
Mark Manning	13	Pam Rothwell	28
Jennifer Myszkowski	15	Mike Wholean	29
Peyton Weber	15	Joan Schroeder	30
Amy Ziegert	18	Eleanor Salb	30
Sally Kowalewski	19	Rae Bauman	30
Phoebe Mildren	20	Sherry Magner	30
Delaney Stuedemann	21	Alexis Jajtner	30

# Council Minutes, January 9, 2024

Present: Pastor Brian Hooper; Denise Sanders; Jane Miller; Eric Sanders; John Muroi; Bonnie Zimmermann; Sandy Wesolowski; Shelly Rosenstock; Lorin Schuchardt; Kristy Knipple; Alex Dollar; Kipp Zimmermann.

Meeting called to order at 6:32pm by D. Sanders.

J. Miller lead the devotion.

Minutes were approved as corrected.



## Financial Reports:

-J. Miller – The number of pledges is up. The difference between pledged amounts and actual receipts were close. The building fund exceeded expectation because of the special donation made during the year.

-J. Muroi – The reserve accounts are doing well in interest earned. The reserve fund is at \$130,000. We have reserve funds for continuing education in savings account, and a separate savings account for endowment. Benevolence was \$52,000 this year amounted to over 10%.

Financial Reports were approved.

**Pastors Time:** We received new families with children. We will be honoring Black History Month in February. The pulpit swap with Josh Simon was well received. Pastor is celebrating 20 years of ordination.

## Current Actions:

-The carpet down payment was made, the carpet selected and awaiting the date for installation.

-The method of voting at the annual meeting will again be unanimous consent.

-The Budget was approved for presentation to the voters.

-RIC has completed at statement of welcome for discussion and will follow up with a survey to the congregation.

## Committee Concerns:

-Christian Ed – We've had a good response in Sunday School. Men's and Women's bible studies are proceeding as well as the Monday monthly Bible Study. Confirmation is proceeding. VBS is looking for someone to take charge and lead the development.

-Human Concerns: We are signed up for Divine Intervention meal. We're continuing to collect coats, socks and underwear for those who are homeless.

-Music and Worship - Lenten midweek worship will be at 6:30 and will be Holden Prayer, with the exception of Ash Wednesday which will be at 11:00 am and 6:30 pm with communion.

-Youth and family – Planning an Easter Egg Hunt.

-Fellowship – is planning for Easter Breakfast much like we did it last year.

-Finance - The plan is do counting every week in the coming year.

Adjourned at 7:25pm Pastor closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,, Kipp W. Zimmermann, Secretary

*Martyr Monthly—St. Stephen the Martyr*



## 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)

Tabitha Moldenhauer, Music Director

Mark Breutzmann, Saturday Musician

Jim Hennessy, Church Maintenance

Bonnie Zimmermann, Ministry Assistant

SSM Website: [www.ssmelca.org](http://www.ssmelca.org)

Facebook:

<https://m.facebook.com/SSMELCA/>

Email: [office@ssmelca.org](mailto:office@ssmelca.org)

Phone: 414-421-3543

Sunday School email:

[sundayschool@ssmelca.org](mailto:sundayschool@ssmelca.org)

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## St Stephen the Martyr ELCA

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



## MARCH 2024



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