

MARTYR MONTHLY

APRIL 2024



April Showers
Bring May Flowers

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 Family of Faith,

Happy Easter! Or I might say, “Have a wonderful Easter celebration!” I write this as some of you will receive this newsletter before and after Easter. Our celebration of Easter will continue in April as we celebrate Jesus’ victory over sin and death.

Our Easter gospel lesson this year is from Mark 16: 1-8. It is interesting to note that in this resurrection account, there is no appearance of the resurrected Jesus’ body. As we think about Jesus’ death and resurrection, some may ask, “Where is the body?” That is an interesting question...What if we could go back to the first century and not find Jesus' body after his death? Does it mean he had risen and ascended? Or does it raise other questions?

Easter is remembering and participating in Jesus' death and resurrection.

Easter is renewing our vows to live our baptism in the world.

Easter is the world coming back to life in the yearly miracle of spring.

Easter is about God's love.

Yet it is more. Easter is about the body, and not the one two thousand years ago. As one hymn puts it: *A new creation comes to life and grows as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.*

We are an Easter people, the body of Christ in the world, and our celebration rolls on for fifty days, and with it a continual reminder of the awesome power of God's work through Christ.

Easter happens among us each week as we celebrate holy communion and are fed and nourished for service in the world. The resurrection is present tense as we gather around the baptismal waters that cleanse and renew us and all who are part of the mystery of the Easter body.

Peace,

Pastor Brian





Information coming soon!

Keep your eyes and ears open !

Another amazing SSM



Vacation
Bible
School



Is headed your way this summer

Aluminum Cans Needed



Beginning April 1st (no fooling) you may bring your cans to the church garage. They will be sold at the Salvage yard to raise money for the food pantries that SSM supports. No aluminum foil, pie tins, or steel cans are acceptable. The salvage yard doesn't want these items. If you have questions, contact Bob or Karen Rasmussen. Thank you for your support.

News From Meru

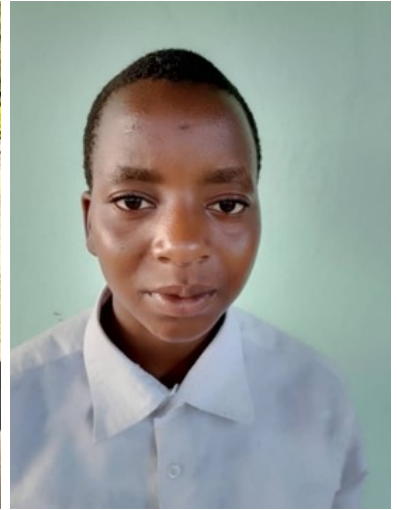
Mbaaseny Education Fund Updates – Three young girls have been selected by leadership at our partner congregation Mbaaseny to receive scholarship assistance. They live in single parent homes or with a disabled parent and all are beginning secondary school. Currently, they are in government schools where “tuition” fees are low. Thank-you for continuing to support this Fund.



Witness Samson Sikawa
Nkoasenga SS



Gladness Stevin Kimario
Shshiton SS



Lilian Isack Mbise
Shshiton SS

Greetings from Pastor Nnko, Mbaaseny Parish - I shared news of our Mardi Gras fundraiser for the youth traveling to New Orleans this summer. Pastor Nnko replied “Shalom sister Julie and SSM, happy to hear..., may the young people who go to New Orleans arrive safely and return safely. I wish them good luck.” He went on to share their fundraising projects, including sheep, coffee, bananas and avocados, are doing well.

On May 5, 2024 Mbaaseny will have a fund raiser to continue finishing work on the Mbaaseny worship space. Their goal is \$17,650 for a cement floor, build an altar and finish the brick work. He wrote “Wishing you all a meaningful Kwaresma (Lenten) season, pray for us.”



News From Meru, continued

Please consider a special gift as a part of your Easter offering which is already designated for Mbaaseny. We will send funds in early May which will add to their fund raising.

Donating to Our Partners in Meru



Many thanks to all who continue to donate to our partners in Tanzania! As contributions are received, we want to make sure funds go to their intended place (though all funds help in any place!)

There are 3 main areas to designate contributions, to keep designations as simple as possible, please consider using the following:

Meru Partner – Mbaaseny congregation, our partner which includes 3 parishes

Meru – The Diocese of Meru (like the Greater Milwaukee Synod), funds are shared

Education Fund – Funds distributed by our partner Mbaaseny to students in need.

Asante sana!



Partners With Meru



Greater Milwaukee Synod

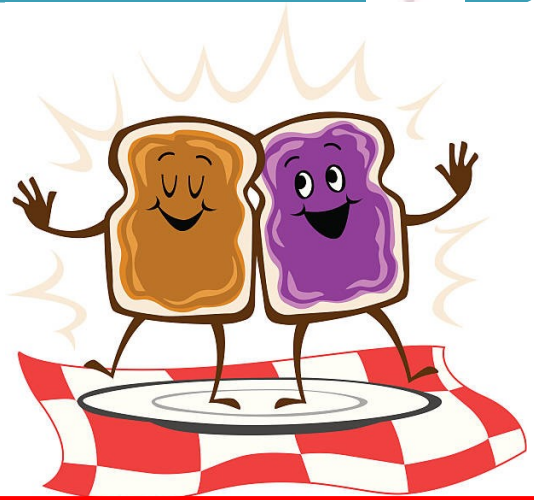


ELCA

Human Concerns



Food and cash contributions made during the month of April will go to support our food pantry partner at Bay View Community Center. Protein items, such as peanut butter (and jelly too) and canned beans and meats are always in high demand. Your generous support of all of our food pantry partners is great-



Thank you to the amazing
Christian Children's Theatre
for your wonderful performance at our
Saturday, March 16th worship

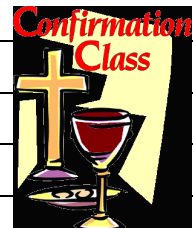
Volunteer Opportunities at Faith Santa Fe

Do you like packing groceries? Or are willing to do it to help others? Our partner Faith Santa Fe preps grocery bags on Friday mornings with non-perishable items for their distribution on Saturday. 2 helpers from SSM would be very appreciated! Arrive at 10am at the hall entrance on Layton Blvd (not earlier as they are still picking up food). Takes about 1 hour. Contact Julie Starks if you are interested! 414-254-2533, jastarks39@gmail.com





Monday, 4/1	1:00pm	Bible Study
Wednesday, 4/3	9:30am	Men's Bible Study
Thursday, 4/4	1:00pm	Quilting - Cut & Sew - until 3:00pm
	6:30pm	Confirmation Class
<i>2nd Weekend of Easter</i>		
Saturday, 4/6	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 4/7	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School
	10:45am	Coffee Hour
Tuesday, 4/9	6:30pm	Mega Meeting
Wednesday, 4/10	10:15am	Women's Bible Study
	12:00pm	Loose Ends Lunch
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, 4/11	7:00pm	Unclobber Book Study - on Zoom
<i>3rd Weekend of Easter</i>		
Saturday, 4/13	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 4/14	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School
	10:45am	Unclobber Book Study
Tuesday, 4/16	6:30pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, 4/17	9:30am	Men's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, 4/18	6:30pm	Confirmation Class



<i>4th Weekend of Easter</i>		
Saturday, 4/20	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 4/21	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School
	10:45am	Coffee Hour
Monday, 4/22	1:00pm	Quilting - Layering - until 3:00pm
Wednesday, 4/24	10:15am	Women's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, 4/25	7:00pm	<i>Unclobber</i> Book Study - on Zoom
<i>5th Weekend of Easter</i>		
Saturday, 4/27	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 4/28	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School
	10:45am	<i>Unclobber</i> Book Study



The 50 Days of Eastertide

Easter does not end when the sun goes down on Easter Sunday. The season of Easter or Eastertide includes the 50 days from Easter Sunday until Pentecost. It is a week of weeks.

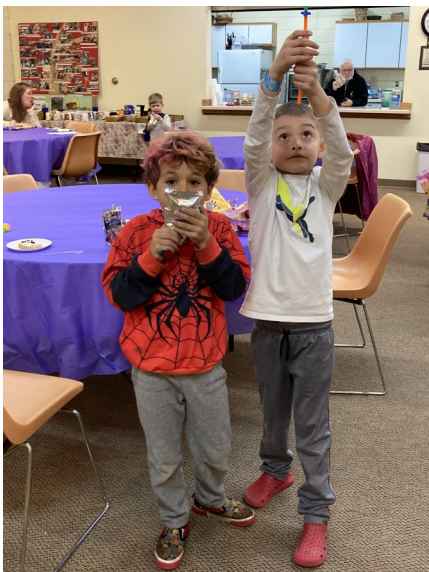
In this joyous season we continue to marvel in the resurrection of Jesus and begin to prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, which is the birthday of the church. While we usually read a portion of the Old Testament each Sunday, during this Eastertide we switch to reading from the Acts of the Apostles to learn more about the early church and the early church leaders. These readings allow us to focus on our risen Lord and prepare for our celebration of Pentecost.

He is Risen - He is Risen Indeed

SSM Second Annual Easter Egg Hunt



March 16th





**Fun
for**



children



of all



ages



Book Club

The RIC (Reconciling in Christ) committee will be hosting a book study in April, exploring the book *Unclobber*. The study will be online (via Zoom) on Thursday nights at 7pm, on April 11 and 25, and in-person after Sunday worship on April 14 and 28. You can also go at your own pace and view video sessions at unclobber.com. Please join us at any session, there is no need to attend all.



Unclobber RETHINKING OUR MISUSE OF THE BIBLE ON HOMOSEXUALITY

The book looks at the specific passages of scripture, known as the "clobber passages" that have been used to speak against full inclusion of our LGBTQ siblings. The book reexamines author Colby Martin's own story of being fired from an evangelical megachurch when they discovered his stance on homosexuality. Copies of the book are available on the table outside of the offices for \$14 (less than the bookstore price).

Loose Ends Lunch



The April Loose Ends Lunch will take place on April 10th at noon at **Famous Dave's BBQ**, located at 5077 S. 27th Street in Greenfield, that is at the intersection of 27th Street and Edgerton. Karen Hoffman is hosting the April lunch, please contact her at 414-421-9249 so that reservations can be made.



Special Days in April



April 1



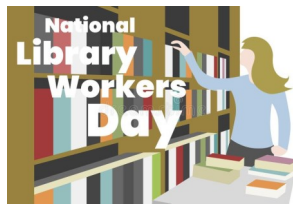
April 2



April 7



April 8



April 9



April 13



April 15



Velociraptor Day
April 18



Passover Begins
April 22



April 22



April 26



Superhero's Day
April 28



Nancy Schneider	01	Sue Herman	14
Kurt Koeff	01	Fred Ankebrant	14
Julane Sebastian	02	Jeff Sweet	15
LaVerne Morgan	04	Kyle Gorecki	15
Dave Simley	05	Chelsea Gagliano	18
Carolyn Kahl	05	Charlie Krauske	18
Judy Lehman	05	Ben Hooper	18
Reese Ceku	05	Molly Myszkowski	19
Vance Ceku	05	Al Behling	20
Zola Reinholz	05	Maggy Hanna	20
Michael Onsager	06	Dennis Lucchesi	21
Hans Tanke	06	Shelley Burns	21
Montana Bruckner	07	Philip Morgan	22
Gordy Flohr	08	David Salas	22
Karen Miller	11	Bob Gleason	23
Andrew Wassweiler	11	Jacob Malinowski	23
Chrissy Zoske	11	Kristy Knipple	24
Jerry Seroka	12	Donna Carver	25
Susan Stasiewski	12	Dick Rutzen	25
		Linda Sweet	25
		Ayla Dose	25
		Bonnie Zimmermann	26
		Andy Stockland	26
		Brenda Sweet	26
		Mary Frieburger	27
		Tom Payne	28
		Andrea Woerpel	28
		Terri Larson	29
		Richard Sontvedt	30
		Jason Covert	30



Council Minutes, February 13, 2024

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

Meeting called to order at 6:32pm by D. Sanders. - J. Miller lead the devotion.

Minutes were approved as corrected.

Financial Report:

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. 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 to 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 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 a 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 1:00 pm 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 to count every other 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

Tabitha Moldenhauer, Music Director

Mark Breutzmann, Saturday Musician

Jim Hennessy, Church Maintenance

Bonnie Zimmermann, Ministry Assistant

SSM Website: www.ssmelca.org

Facebook:

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

Email: office@ssmelca.org

Phone: 414-421-3543

Sunday School email:

sundayschool@ssmelca.org

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SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM

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St Stephen the Martyr ELCA

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(414) 421-3543



APRIL 2024



Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others