

MARTYR MONTHLY

MAY 2024



**All of them were
filled with
the Holy Spirit!**

Acts 2.4

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,

We are Easter people and I still enjoy shouting out, “Alleluia! Christ is Risen!” We are in the midst of the great fifty days of our Easter celebration.

On May 9, which is the fortieth day of Easter, we recognize the Ascension of Our Lord. One verse in Acts says that a cloud took Jesus out of the disciple's sight. Perhaps Jesus ascending to the heavens is not an image that fits with our modern senses, and yet we might sometimes say that someone's head is in the clouds, that they are not grounded in reality.

Jesus' ascension is his leave-taking, perhaps that is an image we that can relate to. During the ten days between Ascension and Pentecost the disciples wait for the promised power from on high, the Holy Spirit that will enliven them to keep alive Jesus' message and ministry.

Sometimes our religious thinking keeps our heads in the clouds. We might worry more about our eternal destination than the care of the earth, those around us, and living in the present moment.

As we enjoy these warm, beautiful spring days, look up to the sky and notice the clouds. But then remember to keep your feet grounded on the earth. And use all five of your senses to look for the presence of the Spirit all around you!

After Jesus' ascension we celebrate Pentecost, the weekend of May 18-19, which we also consider the Church's birthday. On this day, I invite you to wear red, orange, or yellow to represent the fire of the Spirit. Where have you felt the Holy Spirit blowing recently?

In May, we will also celebrate Mother's Day, graduations, and Memorial Day. While all these special days and events take place this month, let's stay connected. May is somewhat of a transitional month between spring and summer. While summer celebrations will be beginning soon, the church continues to be present in the world where bread is broken and forgiveness is offered.

As we journey into May and the summer months make attending worship one of your priorities, and invite a friend. All are welcome!

Peace,
Pastor Brian

Christian Education

The academic year is coming to a close and our Christian Education activities are winding down. The Men's and Women's Bible Studies will continue through the month of June and will take a break during July and August. The Men's group will meet on May 1st and 15th at 9:30am and the Women's group will meet on May 8th and 22nd at 10:15am. For information on how to join either group on zoom please call the office.

The Monday Bible Study Group will meet on May 6th and then will also take the summer off.

Sunday school will meet for the last time this academic year on June 2nd with an end of the year celebration. Each week Sunday School begins in the 9:30am Sunday worship service and then after the Children's Message the students go to their grade level classes.

Confirmation Class will have their end of the year party on May 16th. Current 8th graders who are finishing up their studies will be confirmed in October on Reformation Sunday (October 27th).



Watch for more information about this summer's VBS adventure,
Cave Quest: Following Jesus, the Light of the World

At Cave Quest VBS, kids will explore the rock-solid foundation of Jesus' love! Join us for 3 days of games, songs, tasty treats, crafts, and other fun activities! Get ready to have a spelunkin' good time with SSM this summer! Dates and times are still to be determined. Contact Alex Dollar if you are interested in helping with VBS.

News From Meru



In March, the Human Concerns committee designated \$704 from food pantry donations to be sent to our Meru Partner, Mbaaseny, to distribute to those in need. Pastor Nnko sent photos and a message in mid-April as follows, "...today we had the opportunity to give food to people with disabilities in congregation and we have brought some to the church and had lunch with them. We have given them maize, beans, rice, cooking oil, sugar, soap and salt as you can see in the pictures. They are very happy, some have shed tears of joy. They send many greetings to SSM, the pastor of congregation of St. Stephen the Martyr and everyone who contributes and remember the poor, widows, orphans and disabled people. On behalf of the congregation council, I say be blessed much. We are praying for you."

Asante sana for continued support of food pantry donations! We share those funds on a rotating basis with local food pantries and include Mbaaseny when we can. As you can see, these funds go a long way...literally!



Save the Dates! – Meru style Auction coming soon to SSM

A wonderful part of worship in the Diocese of Meru is the post-worship auction of items contributed as a part of the offering. **SSM will hold a post worship auction on Saturday, June 8 and Sunday, June 9. Proceeds will be directed to the Mbaaseny Building Campaign.** Sign-up sheets to contribute items will be posted later in May.



Loose Ends Lunch

The May Loose Ends Lunch will take place on Wednesday, May 8th at noon at the Forum located on Highway 100 and Layton Ave. (4711 S 108th Street). Please let Karen Hoffman know if you plan to attend so that reservations can be made.



Martyr Monthly—St. Stephen the Martyr

Human Concerns



Unity's CommUNITY meals are held on the third Wednesday of the month. The next meal will be served Wednesday, May 15th. 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 May 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

Thank you for your support! All proceeds will help us with costs associated with our ministries. If you are unable to attend and would like to support us, please use the QR code. Unity is located at 1025 E. Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee.
[Unity Lutheran Church - Milwaukee, WI - Home \(unitymilwaukee.org\)](http://unitymilwaukee.org)



remember to indicate your contribution is for **Food Pantries**. *Thank you!*

You can also assist with the ministries at Unity by having dinner at Panera Bread on Monday, May 6th - see the flyer printed above.

Aluminum Can Reminder

Spring has Sprung and the weather is warming up. With that, the consumption of more canned beverages will increase. Remember that our aluminum cans can be recycled and the proceeds are donated to help our food pantries. Place your bags of cans at the door of the church garage to assist with raising funds and helping the planet at the same time.

Bob and Karen Rasmussen, Coordinators



Prayer Garden News

The Prayer Garden Committee met on April 16 to discuss plans for 2024. The Garden Committee includes Jerry Seroka and Lynda Chaplock, Judy and Roger Lehman, Heidi and Jim Hennessey, Debbie Perl, Faith O'Connell, Larry and Sandy Petricek, and Kevin Ernst. Focus for this year will be a paved path up to the garden, railings on the pathway and some additional plantings. If you are interested in donating funds to the Prayer Garden you can use the "other line" on your giving envelopes, place your monetary gift in the offering basket, or mail it to the church.



SAVE THE DATE

A spring volunteer workday will be held on Sunday, May 19 after the 9:30 Sunday service. Wear red for Pentecost and gardening clothes. Bring gloves and a kneeling pad. A lunch picnic will follow. It will be held rain or shine. If you like to dig in the dirt, here is your chance to have at it. We will be looking for volunteers throughout the summer. If you are interested in volunteering contact Jerry Seroka or Judy Lehman by leaving a note in their church mailbox. If you are interested in attending our meetings watch for announcements in the weekend bulletin or monthly newsletter.



Wednesday, 5/1	9:30am	Men's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, 5/2	1:00pm	Quilting - Cut & Sew - until 3:00pm
	6:30pm	Confirmation Class
<i>6th Weekend of Easter</i>		
Saturday, 5/4	5:00pm	Worship
	6:00pm	Cinco de Mayo youth fund raiser - until 7:00pm
Sunday, 5/5	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School
	10:30am	Cinco de Mayo youth fund raiser- until 1:00pm
Monday, 5/6	1:00pm	Bible Study
Tuesday, 5/7	6:30pm	Mega Meeting
Wednesday, 5/8	10:15am	Women's Bible Study
	12 noon	Loose Ends Lunch
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, 5/9	Ascension of Our Lord	



7th Weekend of Easter		
Saturday, 5/11	5:00pm	Worship
Mother's Day		
Sunday, 5/12	9:30am	Worship
	9:30am	Sunday School
Tuesday, 5/14	6:30pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, 5/15	9:30am	Men's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, 5/16	6:30pm	Confirmation Class - End of the Year Party
Friday, 5/17	Synod Assembly Begins	
Pentecost		
Saturday, 5/18	Synod Assembly Continues	
	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 5/19	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School
	10:45am	Coffee Hour
		Grounds and Prayer Garden Clean Up
Monday, 5/20	1:00pm	Quilting - Cut & Sew - until 3:00pm
Wednesday, 5/22	10:15am	Women's Bible Study
Holy Trinity		
Saturday, 5/25	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 5/26	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School
Monday, 5/27	Memorial Day - Office Closed	

SSM Holy Week and Easter Celebrations



Living Last Supper, Maundy Thursday, March 28th



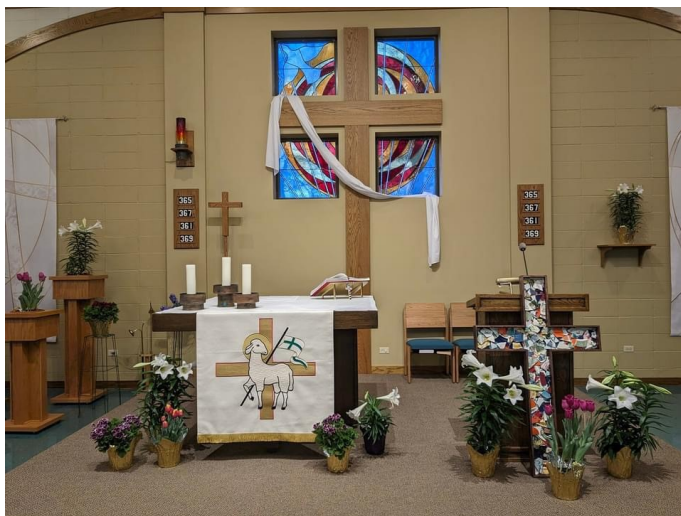
Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 30th



Easter in the Prayer Garden, Sunday, March 31st



Easter Sunday March 31st





**Beginning June
20th and
continuing
through
August 29th
Worship will
take place
on Thursday
evenings at
6:30pm in the
Prayer Garden**

**Sunday services will continue at 9:30am in
the sanctuary and will be both in person
and streamed on Zoom. There will be no
Saturday services during the summer.
For information on how to join worship on Zoom
please call the church office.**

Youth Fund Raiser News - Cinco de Mayo Celebrations

Cinco de Mayo celebration will be after the Saturday service, May 4th, from, 6pm-7pm & Sunday service, May 5th, from 10:30am-1pm. \$10 Plates include 2 chicken tamales, Mexican rice, refried pinto beans & dessert, dine in or carry out available . Also, \$15 per 1/2 dozen chicken tamales carry out as well.



All proceeds will go toward the youth trip to the gathering in New Orleans this summer.

A Little Bit About Pentecost

Pentecost takes place 50 days after Easter Sunday. It celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples when they were in Jerusalem after the death and resurrection of Jesus. We often consider Pentecost to be the birthday of the church.

There were many people from different places in Jerusalem that day because it was the Jewish harvest festival of Shavuot, which took place seven weeks and one day (50 days) after Passover. As the disciples were all gathered on one place the Holy Spirit descended on them with the sound of a great wind and tongues of fire appeared on their heads and they began to speak so that all these many people heard them in their own language.

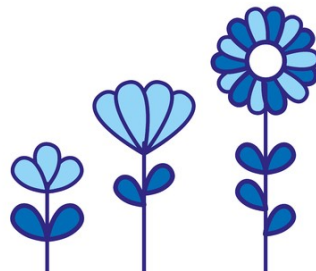


Today, we celebrate Pentecost as the third major holiday of the Christian church. Common symbols used are flames of fire, the descending dove and depictions of wind.

Happy birth- May to You

Bob DeFrank	02
Dianne Niese	03
Derrick Mayer	30
Isabelle Wassweiler	04
Shirley Devecka	05
Cathy Peterson	05
Alaina Anderson	05
Andre Dean	05
Rachel Ziegert	06
Cherrish Pearson	07
Wayne Lunde	08
Vic Barth	10
Dan Resterhouse	12
Herb Leppien	15
Simone Haasch	16

Anthony Revers	17
Archie Weber	17
Nancy Bugajski	19
Pat Burns	22
Derek Dietrich	22
Anthony Gagliano	22
Jordan Easterlin	24
Hayes Kreiter	24
Ken Kahl	25
Mary Luedtke	25
Toni Rivers	25
Sara Raasch	26
Marisa Burgmaier	26
Nell Stockland	26
Madelynn Lentz	27
Bob Gray	28
Nora Ferguson	28
Janel Sweet	29
Joyce Gagliano	30



Remember



May 27th

Council Minutes, March 12, 2024

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

Called to order at 6:32pm by D. Sanders, S. Wesolowski led the devotion

-Minutes were approved as corrected.

-Finance - J Miller reported that we appear to be ahead because several members gave their yearly donations all at once. Our YTD looks good. J. Muroi reported that cash looks down because the reserve was withdrawn to put the down payment of \$20,000 toward the Sound System to begin the work. Financial reports for were approved

-Pastor's time -Preparations for Holy Week are underway. -The Community Church will share the Holy Week services. -We will have an Easter Vigil at the 5:00 Saturday service. -Pastor is covering a funeral at Adoration LC in pastor's absence -Pastor has applied to the Lilly Foundation for a grant to cover his sabbatical to study the culture and spirituality of the Celtic People of Ireland and more for 12 weeks.

-Current Actions -The carpet installation is to start at the beginning of April. -The Synod Assembly May 16 & 17 will need 2 delegates. Speak to pastor. -The cell tower company is continuing to raise the buyout offer; we will keep the lease agreement. - Our credit card receives cash back. We received \$400.00 which was used to pay for the Easter Breakfast and make a donation to the youth for their fundraiser. -We have council vacancies coming up for: treasurer; Christian education; property; stewardship; and secretary.

-April Newsletter articles are due March 15.

-Old Action

Sound System is progressing.

RIC Book Discussion is coming up.

-Committee Reports

-Evangelism – getting the dates up on the website for Holy Week and Easter.

-Music and Worship – All Holy Week services at 6:30pm, Summer Service schedule will begin June 20 and go through August 29.

-Fellowship – Easter Breakfast is planned and will begin at 8:00 am.

-Christian Education – all Bible Studies and moving along as are Sunday School and confirmation classes VBS – Alex Dollar will lead the VBS this year.

-Human Concerns - the last Divine Intervention meal will be March 26. We gathered \$492 from the sale of the olive wood hearts for the children of Palestine.

-Adjourned 7:38pm Pastor closed out with prayer.

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

Facebook:

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

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,
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OFFICE)*



St Stephen the Martyr ELCA

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MAY 2024



Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others