

MARTYR MONTHLY

SEPTEMBER 2024



Worship at SSM
Saturday at 5:00pm
Sunday at 9:30am*

Sunday School 9:30am (beginning 9/8)

**Indicates worship services streamed on Zoom,
for Zoom information please contact the church office.*

Pastor's Page



Dear SSM Faith Community,

I lead worship services once a month at the Elizabeth Residence assisted living facility in Franklin. We hear the gospel, pray, share holy communion and sing together. I sometimes ask residents, “What song do you want to sing today?” People request *Amazing Grace*, and one lady always says, *Onward Christian Soldier!*.

Most weeks we definitely sing the favorite, “***Jesus Loves Me This I Know.***” This song is familiar to many and it is beautiful to see those even with memory problems sing along. Perhaps this song resonates with many of us, for when nothing makes sense, when there are more questions than answers, and when life feels like too much, this little tune reminds our hearts of what matters...

Jesus loves me this I know. For the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

This song is a reminder of our belovedness. Nothing can separate us from Jesus’ love. I learned this song as a young child in Sunday school. Maybe you did too. Sunday school at SSM begins soon, **September 8**, at our Rally Day Celebration. Come play and learn with others about your belovedness. On this day youth can also bring their backpacks for a ***Blessing of Backpacks.***

Bible studies, handbells, and choir and other programs are also beginning soon. As we settle into the fall I again invite you to worship, to deeper connections with God and community, and to be a part of this body of Christ, where all are loved, all are cared for, and all are welcome.

As we step into this new time and season, be sure to take a moment to breathe. It will all be okay! Appointments will be met, events will take place, homework will get done, meetings will happen. Just take each in stride and do the best you can! *Jesus loves me this I know! God is good!*

Peace, Pastor Brian

Music and Worship

Rally Day will be Sunday, September 8. This kicks off a new season of Sunday School, Choir, and Handbells.

Blessing of the Backpacks



Students are welcome to bring backpacks for a blessing of the backpacks during the 9:30 Sunday morning service.



Choir and Handbell rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 4. Handbells are at 5:45pm every Wednesday and choir is at 7:00pm. New members are always welcome! Even if you haven't rung a bell or sung in a choir before, you are welcome to try one or both of these friendly groups!



Join the Choir...
You'll Be Glad You Did!

Thank You Summer Family Choir



Did you know that large print bulletins are available every Sunday morning? If this would make worship more pleasant for you, just ask an usher for a copy of the large print bulletin.

Human Concerns

Food Pantries:

September food pantry donations will be directed to Faith Santa Fe Lutheran Church. ALL food donations are appreciated, but for this month we would like to make a special request. We would like to collect 30 of each of the following items to place in 30 bags distributed to those in need.

Please consider purchasing the following:

1# bag of rice

1# bag of lentils

1# bag dried beans or a can of beans (Pinto, black, etc.)

One 14 oz. can of diced tomatoes

You may also provide a monetary donation, if you prefer. Please remember to add a note that your donation is for *Food Pantries*.

Your generous support of these ministries is greatly appreciated.



School Bags:

Sunday School children will fill school bags on Sunday, September 22nd. Material and instructions for sewing the school bags are available at the school bag display.

Our goal is to fill 200 school bags. Items still needed are:

70-sheet notebooks of wide-or college-ruled paper – (four needed in each bag)

Rulers with centimeters on one side and inches on the other

Pencil sharpeners

Black or blue ballpoint pens (**no gel ink**) – (five needed in each bag)

You can also make a monetary donation so we can purchase needed items and/or to help defray the cost of shipping. Please note *School Bags* with your donation.





Morning of Saturday, September 21

Join all of your friends at the Outreach for Hope 2024 Family Ride Run Walk, and help fundraise \$150K for grants to ministries serving communities experiencing material poverty in the Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA.

FOUR SITE OPTIONS:

Each site offers a **road** (8:30 am) **and/or trail bike ride** (9:30 am) unless otherwise noted, a **5K fun run**, **2-mile walk** (10 am), a **picnic** (11 am) and **fellowship-only participant** and **volunteer** options.

- **Dousman:** Meets at Cory Municipal Park
- **Grafton:** Meets at Grace Lutheran Church
- **Kenosha:** Meets at Petrifying Springs Park
- **Milwaukee:** Meets at Washington Park (*no bike rides at this site*)

There is **no registration fee** - but we encourage you to donate and/or fundraise towards our \$150K goal! **Every dollar raised supports our Ministry Partners' work** of clothing, feeding and caring for our neighbors in need.

Register + learn more starting July 10
at OFHRRW.org

PO Box 341695, Milwaukee WI 53234 | 414-671-1212



Stewardship

We give Thee but thine own; whate'er the gift may be
All that we have it Thine alone; a trust oh Lord from Thee.

In these months ahead we turn attention to words of this hymn, sung in many congregations' worship as an offertory hymn. It reminds us of this single spiritual truth, all that we have is a gift of God, a trust that has been placed in our hands as stewards of God's gracious bounty.

In our attention to this year's commitment, ask yourself:

What has God given to me?
and

How have I used it to build God's kingdom?
and

What has been its impact on the world?

We are hoping to hear from a number of individuals who have experienced the direct impact of God's gracious giving upon the world around us.

God Bless you.

Kipp W. Zimmermann, Stewardship



**We give thee but
thine own,
whate'er the gift
may be;**

Sound System Update



By now, you've likely experienced the incredible difference our updated sound system has made in our services. This state-of-the-art system, which cost \$56,000, has been fully paid for, thanks to a thoughtful financial plan that combined using some of our capital reserves along with \$16,000 in generous donations specifically for the sound system.

We deliberately chose this approach instead of taking out a loan, a decision that will save SSM over \$4,000 in interest. This prudent management of our resources ensures that we remain financially sound while enhancing the worship experience for everyone in our congregation.

As we move forward, we are making 36 monthly installments from our general fund to replenish the capital reserves. We kindly ask that you consider making a donation to help expedite this process. Donations can be made by using the church envelopes or via the Vanco app. Your contributions will go a long way in ensuring that our church remains financially healthy and prepared for future needs.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Loose Ends Lunch

The Loose Ends Lunch group will meet at That's Amore on Hwy 100 and Edgerton on Wednesday, September 11th at noon. Please contact Julane Sebastian if you plan to attend so that reservations can be made. The Loose Ends Lunch is open to all of the ladies of SSM, while it follows the Women's Bible Study on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, you do not have to attend Bible Study to enjoy lunch.





Monday 9/2	Labor Day - Office Closed	
Tuesday, 9/3	6:30pm	Mega Meeting
Wednesday	9:30am	Men's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Choir
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, 9/5	1:00pm	Quilting - Layering- until 3pm
16th Weekend after Pentecost		
Saturday, 9/7	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 9/8	9:30am	Worship - Rally Day - Blessing of Back Packs
		Sunday School
	10:45am	Coffee Hour
Monday 9/9	1:00pm	Monthly Bible Study
Tuesday, 9/10	6:30pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, 9/11	10:15am	Women's Bible Study
	12:00pm	Loose Ends Lunch
	5:45pm	Handbell Choir
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
17th Weekend after Pentecost		
Saturday, 9/14	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 9/15	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School
Monday, 9/15	1:00pm	Quilting - Layering - until 3pm
Wednesday, 9/18	9:30am	Men's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal

18th Weekend after Pentecost		
Saturday, 9/21	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 9/22	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School - Fill Back Packs
	10:45am	Coffee Hour
Wednesday, 9/25	10:45am	Women's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
19th Weekend after Pentecost		
Saturday, 9/28	9:30am	Memorial Committee Meeting
	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 9/29	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School

Important September Worship Dates:

♦ Saturday, September 7th

Saturday Services Resume at 5:00pm

♦ Sunday September 8th

Rally Day

Sunday School Begins at 9:30am

Bring your school backpacks for blessing



Christmas is coming

and so is the WELCA Cookie Sale

Save the date to buy your special holiday cookies

December 14th & 15th before and after worship

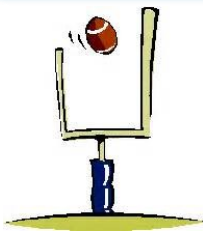
Watch for more information soon





George Jacobsen	02	Joanne Hoeft	06	Danielle Ziegert	16
Lynn Manning	03	Alexander Matusiak	08	Henry Ferguson	16
Brandon Larson	03	J.P. Maschke	09	Roxanne Farrell	17
Caleb Dose	03	Natalie Dietrich	09	Samir Reyes	20
Tom Knipple	04	Sue DeFrank	10	Ron Ropel	22
Darlene Waters	05	Isaac Kling	10	Nancy Hoffman	22
Sierra Manning	05	Joshua Dietrich	10	Debbie Perl	23
Darlene Waters	05	Stephanie Julseth	12	Penny Whitmore	23
Sierra Manning	05	Marion Walton	14	Troy Lisiecki	25
		Sharon Behling	14	Paula Gray	27
		Dana Chybowski	14	John Bugajski	28
		Joy Kiliman	15	Fred Mueller	29
		Lori Salas	15	Ezrie Fuentes	29
		Mark Malinowski	16	Jameson Miller	30

Do You Have Cans?



Now that Summer is coming to a close, but football season is coming, be sure to save your aluminum beverage cans to help our food pantries. Leave your bags of cans at the door to the church garage. The cans will be moved inside until there are enough to make a load to be taken to the salvage yard to be redeemed. If possible, it is helpful if the cans can be crushed. Bob and Karen Rasmussen - Can Coordinators



Rummage/Garage Sale

It's time for our Decennary SSM Rummage/Garage Sale fundraiser! The initial plan is to have this event late fall or next summer. At this time we just need to check the interest of our members so we can plan accordingly. We need to see how many people are interested in being a donor or a volunteer. People who donate items for sale would receive half of the sale proceeds and half would go to the church or a designated charity. The sale would take place on a Saturday and items would need to be dropped off at the church the day before. You would not need to be present during the sale as that would be run by our volunteers. If you are not able to drop things off yourself we can make arrangements to have your items picked up. Donors would just need to make a list of their items and prices so we can mark them when being dropped off.

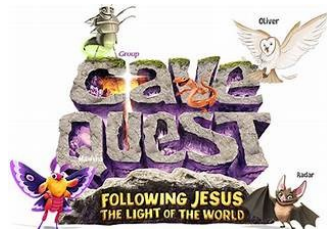
If this sounds like something you might be interested in then just shoot me an email or sign up on the sheet on the church bulletin board in the next couple of weeks. You won't need your list of items until later.

Thank you for your interest. Additional info to follow later.

Lorin, Fellowship Chair lorinschu@gmail.com



VBS Pics



Trunk or Treat



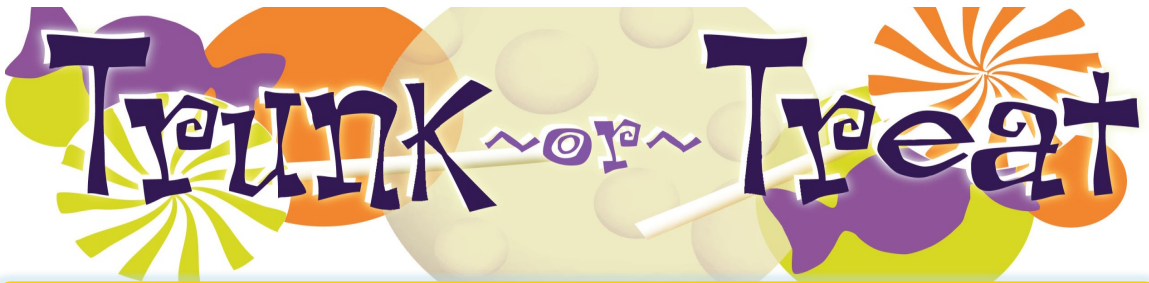
October 19th
1-3pm



Save the date for another year of fall fun
at SSM!

We will be seeking donations of candy bags once again, along
with 12 decorated car trunks,
and a handful of volunteers to help run our
craft & game stations.

Contact Alex Dollar, or sign up on the bulletin board.



Bible Study News

Bible Studies will resume in September. The self-led Monthly Study will begin on September 8th at 1:00pm. Men's Bible Study will be looking at the Book of Acts and will begin on Wednesday, September 4th at 9:30am. Women's Bible Study will begin on Wednesday, September 11th at 10:30am and will begin a study of Romans. Both the Men's and Women's studies are in person and available on Zoom. Contact the church office or Kipp or Bonnie Zimmermann for Zoom information.



News from Mbaaseny



Pastor Nnko shared that Mbaaseny hosted a Youth festival in July with all 3 choirs participating. And a beautiful display of items given as offering.

A Mbaaseny parish meeting was held in early August at Canaan parish. The expansion of the parish building continues! A part of the meeting was devoted to check on the progress of supported scholarship students.



Do you “FOLLOW” the *Partners with Meru* Facebook page? A School Spotlight Series will be shared beginning in September! Check it out!




Education For A Bright Future

DIOCESE OF MERU SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT SERIES

Partners with Meru (Tanzania, Africa)





PARTNERSWITHMERU.ORG

Watch for a weekly focus on each of the Diocese schools.
September-December
Like, comment and share!



DONATE!

Council Minutes, June 11th

Present: Denise Sanders, Loren Schuchardt, John Maroni, Sandy Wesolowski, Kristy Knipple, Shelly Rosenstock, Kipp Zimmermann, Eric Sanders, Jane Miller, Alex Dollar, Keri Whitmore, Carol Jackett

Excused: Pastor Brian

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Denise Sanders.

Kristy Knipple shared a devotion.

May 14 council meeting minutes were approved.



Pastor's Report/Time: Shirley Rau funeral 5/15. Lisa and Kevin Neutgens (non-member) wedding 6/1. GMS Assembly 5/17-5/18. Concluded confirmation classes 5/16. Pastor connected with synod DEM. He will be coaching a synod congregation beginning the end of June. In the June newsletter information on Wild Church is shared. There is a special meeting on June 24th at 6:30pm with Pastor Larry Harpster to talk more about Wild Church and help us plan our Wild Church Worship. Pastor Brian has also been exploring "Fresh Expressions".

Financial Reports: Jane Miller reviewed the financial report noting that we are ahead of projections because some members have paid their pledge in full for the year. Funding the sound system was discussed. John Muroi reminded the council at the annual meeting in January, we agreed to borrow from ourselves. He is now suggesting a repayment plan. After discussion, a motion for a three (3) year self-funded loan with monthly payments of \$1000 (plus extras when possible) was agreed upon. The motion was passed as amended.. Financial reports approved.

Current Action/Discussed Items

Church and Synod Constitution review -SSM constitution has not been updated since 2004. Some required provisions in the synod constitution are different from the SSM constitution. The council reviewed chapters 5 and 6 to determine differences. Other chapters will be reviewed as time allows.

Council Installation scheduled for Sunday, June 14.

Alex Dollar reminded everyone of the youth and family ice cream social on 6/20 after the Thursday outdoor service.

A property chair is still needed.

SSM does not have a sabbatical policy. C. Jackett has volunteered to head up a committee to draft one.

Human Concerns raised about \$1200 at the auction on Saturday and Sunday, June 8th and 9th.

July Council meeting is cancelled. Next council meeting is August 13th. No Mega meeting for July.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Carol Jackett, Secretary



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

9:00-2:00 Mon - Th

9:00-12:00 Fri

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
(RETURNING 9/7)
SUNDAY AT 9:30AM*
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM
(BEGINNING 9/8)

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



St Stephen the Martyr ELCA

6101 S. 51st Street

Greendale WI 53129

(414) 421-3543

September 2024



Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others