

MARTYR MONTHLY



*The flowers appear
on the earth; the
time of singing has
come*

Song of Songs 2:12

SEPTEMBER 2025

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

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



Pastor's Page

Dear Community of Faith,
It is wonderful to be back with you after my sabbatical this summer. It was a renewing time for me. I am thankful for the time to explore, reflect and spend some time with my family as my daughter heads off to college this fall.

The highlight of my sabbatical was my time in Ireland. I was with four other pastors and we hiked along the Dingle Peninsula for five days, hiking about 6-12 miles a day. During this time, I learned some Gaelic history and wisdom of Celtic spirituality. I have stories and pictures to share of my *Celtic Christian Pilgrimage*. I invite you to a presentation in the fellowship hall on **Sunday, September 21 at 10:35am** (or following morning worship).

I am excited as our fall programs are beginning. Rally day is September 7. Youth can bring their backpacks this day for a special blessing. Check out the youth calendar for some exciting upcoming events including Trunk or Treat. Youth in 8th-12th grade are also invited to a Youth Gathering Expedition at Lutherdale, October 31-November 2. Bible studies, handbells, and choir are gearing up as well.

As we settle into the fall I again invite you to worship, and to deeper connections with God and community. In this place 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!

God is good!
Peace, Pastor Brian





Welcome back for Pastor on Thursday, August 14th at the Prayer Garden Service as he returned from Sabbatical.

Pastor will be sharing stories and pictures from his Celtic Christian Pilgrimage while on sabbatical on Sunday, September 21st in the Fellowship Hall after worship. Come, hear and see to learn more.

Human Concerns



WINTER ALREADY? NO. But it is not too early to think about those who are homeless during this coming winter. **The Tippecanoe Warming Room** will be open from December 1 until April 1. Divine Intervention is an “all-volunteer” group that organizes, sets up sleeping areas, and provides food, shelter and some clothing for the guests. St Stephens the Martyr has usually provided 3 to 4 meals during the winter. Our congregation has been so generous in providing nutritious meals and snacks in the past. If anyone is interested in chaperoning, (overnight or for part of their evenings) volunteering in any way please call NANCY MINEAU 414-282-7481. Also: Each guest is provided a NEW pillow. No need to be expensive. If anyone feels like buying a pillow or two you can drop them off at our church office and Bonnie will get it to me. Thank you and God’s blessings, Nancy Mineau.



Food was delivered to the **Bay View Community Center** in August. The volunteer at BVCC was very grateful and expressed that the need is so very great adding that our donation included items that they don't often have available. For example, there were a lot of different kinds of cereal; usually they only have corn flakes to distribute. She said "You [SSM] always come through for us!". **Food donations for September will go to Faith Sante Fe.**

Sunday School will pack the School Bags on September 21 during Sunday School time. We expect a very successful year and will have more than 160 bags filled. A final number will be published before the bags are shipped to Lutheran World Relief in October. From the LWR warehouse the bags go to school age children all over the world who benefit from your generosity.



2024 school bags

Meru Committee News

The annual **Joint Prayer Service via Zoom** that includes the Greater Milwaukee Synod and the Diocese of Meru is scheduled for **Saturday, September 13 at 7:30 AM Milwaukee time**. Each group has requested prayers on certain topics, with the partner writing and praying for that request. Both partner Bishops will participate. Please contact Julie Starks, jastarks39@gmail.com for the meeting zoom link.



ALUMINUM CANS, KEEP THEM COMING

With the Brewers doing so well and the Packer Season beginning, the beverages will be flowing. Keep those aluminum cans for SSM. The last trip to the salvage yard resulted in \$18 for the food pantries. Every little bit helps!

Karen and Bob Rasmussen -



Annual Christmas Cookie Sale

Our annual Christmas Cookie fundraiser will be held December 13 and 14. Start getting those recipes out! More info to come in the October and November newsletters.



SUNDAY, OCT 5, 2025 4:00 PM ORGAN RECITAL

The congregation welcomes the public to this recital presented by David Jonies, Director of Music and Organist at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago.

A native of Germany, he holds Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the Hochschule für Musik in Würzburg and the Performer's Certificate from the Royal Academy of Music in London. His teachers have included James O'Donnell, David Titterington, Günther Kaunzinger, and Gerhard Weinberger.

Described as a "gem" (The American Organist) and an "impeccable" performer (Bonner Generalanzeiger), David enjoys an excellent reputation among his colleagues as a concert organist and church musician. Known for his wide range of repertoire, David was awarded the 1st prize at the 1999 Landau International Organ Competition.

International concert appearances include Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, Westminster Abbey and the London Handel Festival in the U. K., the Pusan Bach Festival in South Korea, the Cathedral at Budejovice in the Czech Republic, the Bluvál Music Festival and the Cathedrals of Bamberg, Mainz, Passau and Trier in Germany.

In the United States, he has performed at Chicago's Orchestra Hall with the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, at Marcus Center with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, at the Cathedrals of Seattle, Helena, Pittsburgh, Hartford, Sioux City, and Houston, and recitals and workshops for American Guild of Organists.

**St. Stephen the
Martyr Lutheran
Church**

**6101 S 51st St.
Greendale, WI**

**Free and Open to the
Public**



**414-421-3543
ssmelca.org
office@ssmelca.org**

**FREE WILL DONATIONS TO
SUPPORT LOCAL FOOD
PANTRIES WILL BE TAKEN
AT THE DOOR**

Stewardship

We heard on the Sunday, Mary Mother of our Lord, the story of Mary. We Lutherans don't hear about her so much stemming from the years of reaction to Roman Catholicism and the reformation. Yet, Mary is part of the story of how God established a new covenant with the people. This was a covenant in flesh and blood, of humanity and divinity finding a meeting place in the world. Mary's story is about ordinary humanity being a home for God, being the dwelling place of God most high in the hearts and homes and places of ordinary human's so as to draw all people into the divinity of God.

The angel came to Mary and the Spirit of God came to dwell in her and from human roots made human heirs of God's kingdom. How did God draw you in? Was there a time and place? Who were the people who delivered God's message of love you? And how did you respond? St. Stephen the Martyr congregation has been, in the years that I have been a member, the instrument and the messenger of God's love and saving grace to the world. Through the generosity of food and other means we have shown God's loving providence to the world around us. Your stories have merged into one body and delivered on God's love to the world.

In the months ahead as we prepare to make out pledges and commitments to the world through our church I ask you to recall the intersection of God's story with yours, and to pledge your lives once again to the care and redemption of the world.

God Bless,
Kipp W Zimmermann,
Stewardship Chair



September 2025



Monday, 9/1	Labor Day - Office Closed	
Tuesday, 9/2	6:30pm	Mega Meeting
Wednesday, 9/3	9:30am	Men's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	6:30pm	Choir Potluck
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
<i>13th Weekend after Pentecost</i>		
Saturday, 9/6	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 9/7	9:30am	Worship - Blessing of the Back Packs
		Sunday School
	10:45am	Coffee Hour and Rally Day Festivities
Tuesday, 9/9	6:30pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday, 9/10	10:15am	Women's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, 9/11	6:00pm	UnFinished Objects
<i>Holy Cross - 14th Weekend after Pentecost</i>		
Saturday, 9/13	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 9/14	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School

Monday, 9/15	1:00pm	Quilting - Layering - until 3:00pm
Wednesday, 7/17	9:30am	Men's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
<i>15th Weekend after Pentecost</i>		
Saturday, 9/20	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 9/21	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School - Pack School Bags
	10:45am	Coffee Hour
Wednesday, 9/24	10:15am	Women's Bible Study
	12 noon	Loose Ends Lunch
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
<i>16th Weekend after Pentecost</i>		
Saturday, 9/27	Outreach for Hope Run, Bike, Walk - Picnic	
	5:00pm	Worship
Sunday, 9/28	9:30am	Worship
		Sunday School

Remember Our Partners

Unity Bag Lunches - Wednesday, September 10th. Meet at Unity at 1:00pm to pack lunches for their food program. If you would like to help or need more information, please see Shelly Rosenstock.

CommUNITY Meal at Unity - is Wednesday, September 17th. Doors open at 5:00pm,. Volunteers are needed before, during and after the meal.

Starting Up In SEPTEMBER



UnFinished Objects

Have a craft sitting on the shelf that you've been meaning to finish? Or one you've been meaning to start? Come to SSM for an adult night out of fellowship and conversation while crafting side by side on Thursday, September 11th at 6pm.

Contact Kristy Knipple or Amy Billman with questions.

Handbells and Choir

Choir and Handbells start with rehearsals and a potluck on Wednesday, Sept 3 with Handbells at 5:45PM, Potluck at 6:30PM, and Choir to follow.

New members always welcome!

No experience or special musical ability necessary. Both the choir and bell choir have plenty of friendly folks who will help get you started.



Bible Studies Begin



Men's Bible Study resumes on Wednesday, September 3rd at 9:30am and continues until June on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. Women's Bible Study starts up on Wednesday, September 10th and continues every 2nd and 4th Wednesday through June. Both studies are in person in the fellowship hall or on Zoom. For Zoom information contact the church office or Kipp or Bonnie Zimmermann.

Rally Day

COOKOUT

Sunday, Sept 7th

Immediately Following Service in Fellowship Hall

Games, crafts, & activities for kids!



Sunday School

Sunday School begins on Rally Day, September 7th. Students will begin in the 9:30am worship service. After the Children's Message students will follow their teachers to their classrooms. Levels will be 4K -1st grade, 2nd & 3rd grade and 4th, 5th & 6th grade.



**See
you
in
Sunday
School!**



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



Watch for these events in October



October 4th - 4:00pm in the
Prayer Garden -
Blessing of the Animals

October 5th & 19th - 10:45am
3rd Grade Bible Instruction

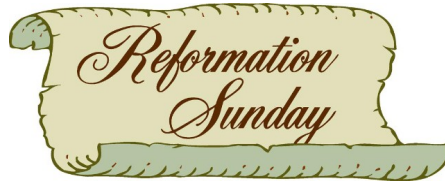


October 5th - 4:00pm
Organ Recital

October 12th - 10:45am
First Communion instruction



October 18th - 2:00 to 3:30pm
Trunk or Treat



October 26th - during 9:30am worship
Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation)
Presentation of 3rd Grade Bibles and
First Communion

Council Minutes, July 8

Present: Denise Sanders, Sandy Wesolowski, Kipp Zimmermann, Eric Sanders, Keri Whitmore, Shelly Rosenstock, Carol Jackett, Kristy Knipple, Alex Dollar, Jason Covert, Lorin Schuchardt Jane Miller, Excused: Pastor Brian (Sabbatical)

The meeting was called to order by Denise at 6:30, A devotion was given by Kipp. June Minutes: The June meeting was canceled.

Financial Reports: Jane – we are doing good YTD. \$400 under for the month but still okay YTD. Jason – The past months numbers were normal. Current assets decreased slightly from \$270.6 to \$270.0 There were a lot of renewal costs in February, March and April. Human Concerns disbursement was included. Recording all salaries for Pastors during sabbatical to the P&L account 61111 for Guest Pastors. Pastors Report – No Report – Pastor Brian is on Sabbatical Leave until August 7, 2025.

Current Action Items:

Retaining Wall and shrubbery – Jim, Larry and Jerry gave updates on this issue. Jerry stated it will cost \$3,400 to take out the arborvitaes. Junipers would be the best replacement. Another option is to just trim the arborvitaes since they are still healthy and still have a good life span. The Council agreed to the option of trimming the arborvitaes instead of replacing them. To replace then retaining wall the Council decided to go with the bid from Blumels Garden and Landscaping Center. Their bid is the most cost effective and they have a reputation for doing quality work. A question was asked if stairs or another way to get from the garden to the back door on the lower level could be added? Jim will discuss this with Blumels and get a cost estimate.

Other issues discussed were getting professional cleaners for the carpeting. Jim will get a quote. We should also consider cleaning the garage again and removing stuff that is not needed. For snow plowing Jim suggested we go with the same company. The new boiler is complete and working. We need to think about chairs – how many do we have currently? Do we need more or fewer? What is the best storage solution for the chairs?

Synod Assembly Report – Bonnie and Kipp Zimmerman, Pam Lange and Julie Starks represented SSM at the Synod meeting. Bonnie was elected to serve on the Synod's Consultation Committee.

Sabbatical Update - Everything is going well during the sabbatical. All services and events including a funeral and wedding were covered by interim Pastors.

Community Engagement – August 10 is the date for the Village Days Community Service in Greendale. The service will be at 9:00am. There will be no service at SSM that day.

Council Minutes, Continued

Congregational Meeting July 20 - The agenda for that meeting is to nominate and elect new council members for Human Concerns and Property (1 year term). Rally Day is scheduled for September 7, 2025. Volunteers will be needed.

Feedback on SSM Banner Design - A banner 6'x 2' is recommended. The logo used needs to be decided. Should we use a professional designer? Eric showed some Artificial Intelligence (AI) options with rainbow colors.

Constitution Discussion: Committees – Currently there are some one-person committees. Should we consider combining or restructuring committees at the next meeting?

Committee Reports

Evangelism – No updates currently.

Stewardship – Efforts are ongoing to establish Stewardship Short Stories where members can share how their faith and SSM has impacted them.

Fellowship – The committee is considering organizing another rummage sale and invites suggestions regarding timing. Additional proposals include hosting a bonfire event in the autumn.

Human Concerns – Food distributions are scheduled for this month. The committee will continue to operate collectively until a new chairperson is elected at the July 20 Congregation meeting.

Youth and Family Ministries – Vacation Bible School took place in June with 14 participants, and it was highly successful.

Christian Education – Plans are underway to publish a newsletter article about the book club, which is anticipated to begin in the fall, pending sufficient interest.

Music and Worship – The organ recital has been rescheduled for October 5, 2025. Further details will be provided as they become available.

Finance – In August (a five-week month), donation counting will occur during the third and fifth weeks. For all other months, counting is scheduled for the second and last week. Deposits should be made on the Sunday following each counting session.

The meeting closed in prayer. The meeting was adjourned by Denise at 8:05 p.m.

Next Council Meeting is Tuesday, August 12 at 6:30pm.

Submitted by Carol Jackett, Congregation Secretary



OFFICE HOURS

9:00-2:00 Monday - Thursday

9:00-12:00 Friday

SSM STAFF

Brian Hooper, Pastor

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 9:30AM*

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



St Stephen the Martyr ELCA

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

September 2025



Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others