

# MARTYR MONTHLY

## NOVEMBER 2025

**For everything created by God is good,  
and nothing is to be rejected,**



**provided it is received with thanksgiving,  
1 Timothy 4:4**

**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 SSM Faith Community,  
Did you know that Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) elected a new Bishop? The Rev. Yehiel Curry has been elected to serve as the next Presiding Bishop. He began his six-year term on October 1. Bishop Curry is the first Black leader to hold this office in the ELCA's history.

Before his election, Curry served as bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, a position he has held since 2019. His pastoral roots are in Shekinah Chapel Lutheran Church in Chicago, where he began as a mission developer and later became pastor when the congregation was formally organized.

Bishop Curry went to the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, and his professional background includes social work, public education, and community organizing. These experiences have shaped a leadership style attentive to justice, inclusion, and equipping others for service.

You may wonder, "What does a Bishop do?" The role of Presiding Bishop carries wide responsibilities. The office provides spiritual and administrative leadership to the whole church, chairing the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, Conference of Bishops, and Church Council. The Presiding Bishop oversees the churchwide staff and budget, serves as pastor to the 65 synodical Bishops (Bishop Paul Erickson is the Bishop of our local synod, the Greater Milwaukee synod), and represents the ELCA in ecumenical and global partnerships.

As he prepares to take up this office, Bishop Curry has spoken of his desire to invite more voices into the church's leadership, especially those who have not always been heard. He envisions a church where both lay people and clergy are equipped to lead, particularly as many congregations adapt to new realities of size, staffing, and resources. His hope is for an ELCA that lives out what it proclaims, not only in official documents but in everyday relationships and actions.

I am excited as Bishop Curry begins this new role. This is an important moment in the life of our church, and his leadership will help guide us as we continue to discern what it means to be Lutheran Christians in this time and place. Let us continue to keep Bishop Curry, Bishop Paul and all our leaders in prayer.

Peace, Pastor Brian

# November Special Events



## *All Saints Weekend*

**November 1 & 2** - All Saints Weekend. This is a time we set aside to remember all of the saints who have gone before us. If you have loved ones you wish to remember please bring in a photo to place on the Table of Remembrance that will be set up in the Narthex. (It would be a nice touch if you identified the

people in the pictures and described their relationship to you for folks looking at the pictures.

## *High School Youth*

**High School Youth Event:** We are teaming up with high school youth from St. Luke's for a fun evening. We will go on a scavenger hunt throughout Greendale, driving to different destinations and will gather back at St. Luke's for a bonfire and s'mores. We will meet at St. Luke's ( 6705 Northway) on **Saturday, November 8 from 6:30pm-8:30pm.**



## *A Can't Miss Event, the 2025 SSM Bonfire*



Mark your calendars for the 2025 SSM bonfire. This will be bigger, brighter and more exciting than the last. Although, we can't make any promises about snow this year. But we can promise fun, fellowship and hot chocolate (cold lemonade if the temperature is above 70). This will take place on **Thursday November 13** in the back parking lot of SSM and should start around

7:00 p.m. More details to come. Hope to see you there!

# Mt Meru Coffee

The Mount Meru Coffee Project is celebrating a monumental **25th anniversary** of ministry, a quarter-century of partnership with Tanzanian coffee farmers. Our Fair-Trade commitment has driven significant growth, now impacting the livelihoods of nearly **1,000 farmers** and their communities. Get ready to welcome back the popular **Christmas Traditions blend (\$18 for bean or drip)** and the versatile **4-pack (\$15)** and **6-pack (\$20) samplers**. Don't miss this year's new addition: a stunning, **hand-thrown logo coffee mug (\$20)**—the perfect artisan companion for your coffee.



**Hand thrown Mug**  
(Blue or White)



**Sampler – 6 pack**  
(Butter Pecan, Choc. Rasp., Regular, French Vanilla, Hazelnut, Peaberry)



**Sampler – 4 pack**  
(Regular, Decaf, Peaberry, Christmas Traditions)



**Christmas Traditions**

## November Loose Ends Lunch



The November Loose Ends Lunch will be held at The Forum on Wednesday, November 12th at noon. The Forum is located on the southwest corner of Layton and 108th Street. If you plan on attending please contact Mary Luedtke to let her know so that reservations can be made. The December luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 10th, place to be determined. In January luncheons will go back to the usual 4th Wednesday of the month.

# Human Concerns

Our food ministry partner for November is **Bay View Community Center**. We will collect non-perishable, non-expired food items as well as toiletries and household basics. Monetary donations of any amount also help. Checks, payable to St. Stephen the Martyr, may be placed in the offering. Be sure to indicate that your donation is for Food Ministries. Or you can use the envelopes that are provided on the Giving Station board.

There have been many recent changes in staffing and funding at BVCC. During their time of reorganization, the Christmas gift program is on hold until further notice. You may start your Fall closet cleaning as we will have a coat collection later this year; please watch for more information about collection dates and recipient organization(s).

SAVE THE DATE! You are invited to attend the Pasada Christmas Party at **Faith Santa Fe** Church on December 19, 2025! Watch for more information! Also watch for more information about a special collection to provide Christmas meals to recipients of the food pantry at Faith Sante Fe. More to follow!



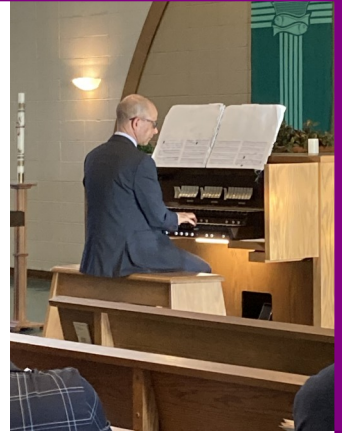
## Travel Opportunity to the Land of Luther



**Explore the journey of Martin Luther in Germany:** I am exploring the possibility of leading a group trip to Germany in the fall of 2026. The trip would include exploring Germany and reliving Martin Luther's ministry from the early 1500's. Travel would include going to Nuremberg, considered the "eyes and ears of Germany" and home to many of the printing presses, Eisenach where

Luther spent his exile translating the New Testament from Greek to German, and even Wittenberg, the home of Luther himself. I will have an informational meeting after Sunday worship on November 9. You can also email me at [pastorbrianhooper@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbrianhooper@gmail.com) with any questions or if you are interested in learning more.

# Pics



Organ Recital, October 5th, presented by David Jonies, Director of Music and Organist at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago





Trunk  
Or  
Treat  
Oct. 18



# November 2025

## *All Saints Weekend*

<b>Saturday, 11/1</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	Worship
<b>Sunday, 11/2</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Worship
		Sunday School
	<b>10:45am</b>	Coffee Hour
<b>Wednesday, 11/5</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Men's Bible Study
	<b>5:45pm</b>	Handbell Rehearsal
	<b>7:00pm</b>	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thursday, 11/6</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>	Quilting - Cut & Sew - Until 3:00pm
	<b>6:00pm</b>	Unfinished Objects
	<b>6:30pm</b>	Confirmation Class

## *22nd Weekend after Pentecost*

<b>Saturday, 11/8</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	Worship
	<b>6:30pm</b>	High School Youth Event at St. Lukes- until 8:30pm
<b>Sunday, 11/9</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Worship
		Sunday School
<b>Tuesday, 11/11</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	Mega & Council Meeting
<b>Wednesday, 11/12</b>	<b>10:15am</b>	Women's Bible Study
	<b>12 noon</b>	Loose Ends Lunch
	<b>5:45pm</b>	Handbell Rehearsal
	<b>7:00pm</b>	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thursday, 11/13</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	Bonfire

<i>23rd Weekend after Pentecost</i>		
<b>Saturday, 11/15</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	Worship
<b>Saturday, 11/15</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	Worship
		Sunday School
	<b>10:45am</b>	Coffee Hour
<b>Monday, 11/17</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>	Quilting - Layering - Until 3:00pm
<b>Wednesday, 11/19</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Men's Bible Study
	<b>5:45pm</b>	Handbell Rehearsal
	<b>7:00pm</b>	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thursday, 11/20</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	Confirmation Class
<i>Christ the King</i>		
<b>Saturday, 11/22</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	Worship
<b>Sunday, 11/23</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Worship
		Sunday School
<b>Thursday, 11/27</b>	<i>Thanksgiving - Office Closed</i>	
<b>Friday, 11/28</b>	<b>Office Closed</b>	
<i>1st Weekend of Advent</i>		
<b>Saturday, 11/29</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	Worship
<b>Sunday, 11/30</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Worship
		Sunday School
	<b>10:45am</b>	Coffee Hour

## *Thanksgiving*



Thursday, November 27th is Thanksgiving. A day to give thanks to God for all that God has given us. Please look for the special Thanksgiving envelope found in your envelope box. If you do not have envelopes you can simply mark your special contribution “Thanksgiving”. 60% of funds received that are marked “Thanksgiving” will go to the Hunger Task Force. This is a wonderful way to share what God has given us - what a wonderful way to say “thanks”.

# Outreach for Hope

**Outreach for Hope Ride Run Walk Report** – Well over 800 people registered for the Ride Run Walk with 13 from SSM. Participants joined in the event at one of 4 sites on a beautiful Saturday, Sept. 27. Thank-you to SSM members who contributed over \$1400 of the \$120,000 received by Outreach for Hope so far. Donations were accepted through the month of October and were doubled with a \$35,000 match donation. All funds support grants awarded to partner ministries throughout the Greater Milwaukee Synod. Photos from 3 of the 4 event sites!



**OUTREACH  
FOR HOPE**



# Women of SSM Cookie Sale



It is almost time!!!! Get ready for our FANTASTIC, FAN-FAVORITE ANNUAL Christmas cookie/candy fund raiser. This year it will be held on December 13 and 14.

As usual we are asking families to donate a batch of their favorite Christmas cookie or candy. Please drop them off at church either Friday, December 12 between 9 and noon OR Saturday, December 13 between 9 and 11 am. We will then put together in boxes of assorted cookies and sell them for \$9.00 a pound. Boxes will be for sale before and after both services that weekend.

Remember this is a fund raiser and all proceeds are donated to both local and international charities.

We could use some more volunteers to help with boxing and sales so please let the office or Bonnie Daleness at 414 477-8706 know if you would be willing to help.



## Stewardship

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Last year we gained about 7 people who made pledges for the first time. We are all grateful. It makes planning for the future so much easier. For this year, you should have received your pledge cards. If you have not already done so, could you please return the cards as soon as possible. Your generosity has made it possible for our congregation to serve our community's needs. Please consider the work that God has called us to in the world as you consider your gift to the ministry of St. Stephen the Martyr this year. Kindly return your pledge card and place them in the basket in the Narthex as part of your gift to the work of our ministry. Remember, these are pledges of intent and sometimes our intent looses out to the realities of life. No one will be knocking on your door if things change.

Thank you. Rev. Dr. Kipp W. Zimmermann, Stewardship



Susan Bucholz	03	Josi Rafalski	14
Diane Moraza	03	Emily Raasch	14
Heidi Hennessy	04	Paul Bauman	17
Kurt Kreiter	05	Bob Billman	17
Dick Kroll	06	Karen Hoffman	20
Taylor Drover	06	Nick Winter	20
Lilly Revers	08	Amanda Leppien	22
Alexandra Covert	09	Kaylee Gray	23
Duncan Sanders	09	Cathy Devries	24
Peter Stasiewski	11	Kara Nehring	24
Ashley Herman	11	Susan Mildren	24
Lindsay Herman	11	Mya Kling	26
Taylor Herman	11	Diana Gastrau	27
Amy Lentz	12	Courtney Farrell	27
Mason Resterhouse	12	Jenna Mayer	30
Ruth Urdahl	14	Grayson Kunesh	30
		Nola Cooper	30

## CAN we continue our Winning Season?

Our sports teams are in full swing and we hope they all have a winning season. SSM CAN contributions are wrapping up the season for winter on November 9th. Everyone wins with the collection of aluminum cans, the environment and our Food Pantries. With can collection closing, please save your cans over the winter to be ready for Opening Day of next year's CAN season on April 1st. Remember that we have a donor who will match all funds raised. The total amount for 2025 will be published in January of 2026.

Thanks to all!

Karen and Bob Rasmussen - Can Coordina-



# Coming in December from Music and Worship

## *Christmas Advent Concert*



The Choir Christmas Advent Concert will take place during 9:30am worship on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. Special music will be provided by the Handbell Choir, the Vocal Choir and the Sunday School Children.

## *Christmas Worship*

Christmas Eve worship will take place at 4:00pm and 8:00pm on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> (note that the later service time is a change). The Choir and Handbells will provide special Christmas music at the 4:00pm service on Christmas Eve. Christmas Day worship, Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, will be at 9:30am.

## *Christmas Eve*



## *Service of Lessons and Carols*



The Christmas Season lasts beyond Christmas Day for 12 days, just like the song “The Twelve Days of Christmas”. We will continue our Christmas celebration with a Service of Lessons and Carols on the First Weekend of Christmas, Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>. At 9:30am. (Note that there is no service on Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup>.)

## *Christmas Poinsettias*

Poinsettia order forms and envelopes will be available in the Narthex beginning Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. Orders will be due back on or before Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. You do not have to pay for your flowers when you order them, but please mark on your order form whether you are submitting payment with the order or will pay later, just for record keeping purposes.



# Council Minutes, August 12



Present: D Sanders, S Wesolowski, K Zimmermann, E Sanders, J Starks, C Jackett, J Covert, L Stasiewski, Pr B Hooper, L Schuchardt, K Whitmore Excused: K Knipple, A Dollar, J Miller

Called to order by Denise at 6:33, devotion by Sandy Wesolowski. August 25 Minutes approved as amended.

**Financial Reports:** Jane's Report-Giving is typical for the summer. Doing fine with donations. Memorial Fund at \$5,985. Cash accounts are good. Jason's Report-Profit statement is on track. Donations for the school bags are good. Outstanding are the shipping costs for the school bags and quilts. August Financial Reports approved.

**Pastor's Report:** Funerals were held for two members. Concluded outdoor services for the season. Attended Wild Church Leadership team meeting and Nature Spirituality retreat on August 16. Confirmation planning and organization. Confirmation classes begin August 16. Hope to get a High School Youth Group together. Blessing of the animals planned for October 4. Need to review and keep up with background checks for teachers and volunteers. Could be an electronic document that is rechecked every five years and done for new teachers and volunteers.

Upcoming activities include blessing of the quilts and Celtic Pilgrimage presentation on 9/20 and 9/21.

**Current Action Items:** Outside Sign Proposal. L Petricek attended the meeting to provide information and get Council input on a proposal for a new outdoor sign. Estimated cost is around \$26K with \$10K already committed from the Memorial Fund. Larry and the committee will put together a detailed proposal to present to the Executive Committee that includes on-going maintenance and technology costs. Larry will write an article for the newsletter explaining the proposal to determine interest and if it is a priority at this time.

Land Lease Update The Land Lease Company wants to switch from monthly payments to a one-time lump sum payment. The council decided that we have a good deal at this time and do not see any advantage for SSM to switch and lose control of our land. If we did at some point decide to change the tax implications need to be evaluated.



# Council Minutes, Continued

Building Use Policy The Council discussed our policy on renting our facilities for members and non-members. Our current prices appear low. Council Restructuring After discussion it was decided to combine the mega meeting and Council meeting both to the same Tuesday each month. The Mega meeting would start at 6:30 followed by the Council meeting. Facilities A location has been tentatively marked off for storing scaffolding which would cost around \$900. Larry and Jim will also get bids for changing lights that could reduce the need for the scaffolding. The cabinet storage has been cleaned out which should help identify a secure location for a fire/chemical cabinet.

**Committee Reports:** Human Concerns School bags will be assembled by Sunday School on Sept 21. Bags and quilts will be blessed on Oct. 5 and sent to Lutheran World Relief on Oct 11.

Outreach for Hope Ride, Run, Walk is scheduled at 4 locations on September 27. Music and Worship The Organ Recital is scheduled for Oct 5 at 4:00. On Christmas Eve the main music from the choir and bell choir will be performed at the 4:00 service. Fellowship A golf outing is being considered if there is interest. The date and time are TBD. Stewardship The goal is to have pledge cards for next year mailed by mid-October. Finance During October the initial budget sheets should be available. Property The snow removal contract for the 25-26 season has been completed with the same contractor. The work on the front door for automatic opening and closing is to be completed on September 10. An inspection of the boiler and sprinkler system is scheduled. Youth and Family Trunk or Treat is scheduled for October 18 from 2:00 to 3:30. Christian Education A book club is planned to start on October 6 starting at 6:30pm. This is open to all that want to attend. Bring book titles for consideration. Evangelism There will be an “Unfinished Object and Craft” session on Thursday Sept. 11. All are welcome to participate.

The next Joint Mega/Council Meeting is Oct 14 at 6:30. Paster Brian offered a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10

Respectfully submitted, Carol Jackett - 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](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)

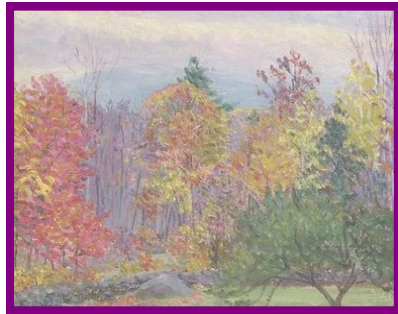
## WORSHIP AT SSM

SATURDAY AT 5:00PM

SUNDAY AT 9:30AM\*

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM

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



## St Stephen the Martyr ELCA

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

## November 2025



*Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others*