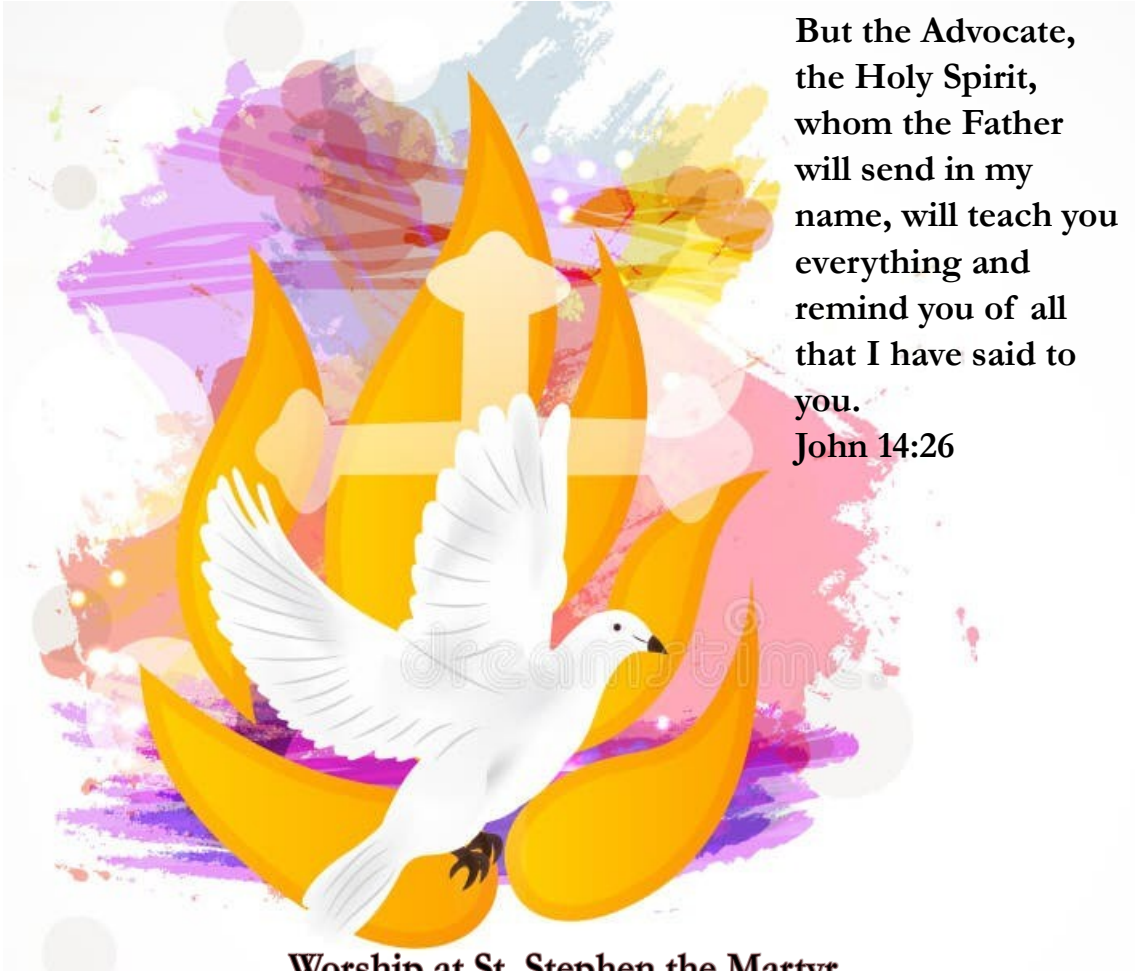


MARTYR MONTHLY

MAY 2026



But the Advocate,
the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father
will send in my
name, will teach you
everything and
remind you of all
that I have said to
you.

John 14:26

Worship at St. Stephen the Martyr
Saturday 5:00pm
Sunday 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 Family of Faith,

The Holy Spirit is moving through the SSM community. Can you feel it? We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, which is sometimes referred to as the church's birthday on Pentecost, the weekend of May 23-24. We might think of Pentecost as the grand finale of Easter. Easter comes to full bloom as the Holy Spirit is poured out on the waiting disciples. The good news of resurrection is for all the people!

As the earth is in full bloom, Pentecost invites us to see our lives as the realm of God's renewing, passionate, fiery Spirit. The season of Easter may be coming to an end, but each day is a new beginning with opportunities to give thanks, serve, and revel in the abundance of our Easter faith in full bloom.

During the weekend of our Pentecost celebration, we will pause to give thanks for one of God's greatest gifts to the church: people who serve. It will be a **Volunteer Appreciation Weekend**.

The Holy Spirit calls each of us into ministry—not just a few, but all. Every act of service, whether seen or unseen, is part of how God's love becomes real in our community and in the world.

From those who prepare our worship space, share music, and read scripture... to those who teach our children, walk alongside our youth, and lead studies.. to those who offer care, organize ministries, serve neighbors, and quietly step in wherever there is a need...SSM thrives and is alive because of you.

During worship that weekend, we will offer a special time of recognition and blessing for all who serve. We celebrate how the Holy Spirit continues to move through ordinary people, equipping each of us with unique gifts for the sake of the gospel.

If you have ever wondered whether your contribution matters, hear this clearly: it does. The work you do—whether up front or behind the scenes—is part of God's ongoing story here. Thank you for the ways you serve, the love you share, and the faith you live out every day.

As we celebrate Pentecost together, I invite you to wear fiery colors in worship: red, orange and yellow. Pentecost is the fiftieth day of Easter and our new Christ candle burns brightly.

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit." (1 Corinthians 12:4)

Peace, Pastor Brian

Easter Greetings from Tanzania!



Mbaaseny parish thanked us for Easter greetings and wished us a blessed Easter season. And Assistant to the Bishop Ndelekwa Pallangyo (and former partner pastor at Mbaaseny) also shared greetings writing “May God fill you with the joy of risen Christ.” Pastor Ndelekwa will finish his PhD studies focusing on youth ministry this December. He is extremely grateful for the financial support he has received over the years from the Zwiros Scholarship program (partner Unity Lutheran).

Synod Assembly



Each year representatives of the Greater Milwaukee Synod meet to conduct the church’s business, share events and for fellowship. The assembly begins on Friday, May 29th at 4:00pm and continues through Saturday, May 30th. Each congregation is represented by its pastor and lay voting members, St. Stephen the Martyr sending Carol Jackett and Bonnie Zimmermann as our 2 voting members. Retired rostered ministers are also invited to attend. On Friday evening at 7:00pm a synod wide worship service is held to which all are invited. If you would like to learn more about the Synod Assembly you can look at the resource page, <https://milwaukee-synod.org/event/synod-assembly-2026/>

Newcomer Orientation



Are you a newcomer to St. Stephen the Martyr? If you would like to find out more, get connected, deepen your ties, or if you are considering membership, please join us following

the 9:30am worship service on Sunday, May 17 for a newcomer orientation. Please contact Pastor Brian Hooper (pastorbrianhooper@gmail.com) 414-421-3543 with any questions, or if you plan to attend.

Human Concerns - May Calendar

HUMAN CONCERNS -AT A GLANCE- MAY 2026

| Ministry | Details | Contact Person |
|---|---|---|
| May Monthly Food Ministry Collection: Bay View Community Center | Place items in collection bins or use envelope from Giving Board for monetary donations | Nancy Payne and Nancy Mineau make deliveries. |
| Unity Soup Lunch May 6 | Volunteer to assist with baking at 1 PM or serve and clean-up 5:30-7 PM | Shelly Rosenstock |
| Unity To-Go Bag Lunches May 13 | Volunteer to assist with food prep and assembly at 1 PM | |
| Unity Hot Meal | Volunteer to assist with serving and clean-up 6-7 PM | |
| Unity- donate items for guests | The Unity clothing closet is always in need of new men's underwear and socks (any size) and hygiene items, such as soap, deodorant, toothpaste and brushes, shaving supplies, toilet paper, wipes, etc. | See sign-up sheets on bulletin board. To sign up to help with the various meals |

Unity Lutheran is looking for volunteers to help with their deep cleaning scheduled for May 15th and 16th from 8am to 1pm. Both the food storage area and kitchen will be given a thorough cleaning. A sign-up sheet with more information will be posted as soon as details are available.

Unity will be holding their annual plant sale on May 2nd and May 9th from 9:00am to 12 noon. They are looking for donations of indoor and outdoor plants (annual or perennial) and customers to purchase plants. Donations can be delivered to Unity at 8:30am each day prior to sale. Funds raised will benefit Unity's food ministries. Contact Shelly Rosenstock if you have any questions.



Summer



Food



Ideas



Other Human Concerns News

The funds received in the special envelopes this spring holiday season were quite abundant. Below is a list of the amount received for each special envelope type as of April 15th. 60% of these funds are being distributed. Please remember that it is never too late to fill these envelopes and turn them in. If you do not want to use or don't have envelopes, simply mark your contribution with the name of the special day as listed below.



| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| Ash Wednesday, | ELCA Disaster Response | 960.15 |
| Lent (5 weekly envelopes) | Outreach for Hope | 1823.95 |
| Palm Sunday | Lutheran Social Services | 423.00 |
| Maundy Thursday | ELCA World Hunger | 465.00 |
| Good Friday | Bread of Life Clinic | 460.00 |
| Easter | Mbaaseny Parish | 870.00 |



School will be ending for the summer very soon. That means it is time to start thinking about school bags. We are not ready for supplies yet, but are starting to look for fabric to construct the bags. If you find sturdy fabrics, heavier than quilting cotton but not too thick to go through a sewing machine, we would appreciate your donations. Each bag is cut out to 38 x 15 inches, so look for pieces of cloth this size or larger. We will do the cutting and will look for help later with pressing and sewing.

It won't be much longer and schools will be out for summer and we will begin our summer food ministry focus. Children may not have access to adequate food during this time when there are no school lunches. For June, July and August we will be collecting items to fill this gap - one month for each of our food ministry partners. As always if you prefer you can donate funds by using a food ministry envelope or indicating "food ministry" on your envelope or check. Suggested items are: cereal, fruit or applesauce cups, granola bars, microwavable macaroni & cheese, canned or microwavable pastas, shelf stable milk, prepackaged snacks, and especially proteins like peanut butter, beef or cheese sticks and canned tuna or chicken. Other snack and easy to open and prepare foods are welcome as well. The idea is to come up with things the kiddos can prepare safely by themselves.

Mount Meru Coffee Weekend May 16 and 17

We will continue to celebrate 25 years of Mount Meru Coffee with special guest Brenda Skelton here to talk about the coffee project. She will bring Tanzanian fabric quilted items to sell in support of the Coffee Project. These funds are used for continuing education for Project farmers whose lives are improved significantly through the purchases of their coffee by us!



Community Listening Session

The Green Corners Clergy in collaboration with Common Ground invite you to a community listening session to hear from congregants and neighbors about going beyond our walls to improve lives, walk with others and make a difference. Hear from congregants about what is loved, what might change and what pressures are being experienced. May 17 from 2 to 4pm at Our Lady of Lourdes, 3722 S 58th St. For more information and to register visit commongroundwi.org.

CAN SEASON OPENING VERY SUCCESSFUL!

The week after Easter, the first load of cans was taken to the salvage yard. The load of 31 lbs. resulted in \$29 for our food pantries. Monies like that will enable them to purchase perishables like milk. Salvaged aluminum cans are presently being redeemed for \$.95 a pound. The price is usually better early in the season so if you still have your winter saved cans, get them to the church garage soon for the best return.



Sporting events are getting into full swing and picnics will start occurring as soon as it warms up a bit. Remember to save the beverage cans, they are worth money to help our food pantries. The need is great!
Karen and Bob Rasmussen - Can Coordinators



Youth Group

The youth group will meet at St. Luke's in the Village at 7:00pm on Wednesday, May13 for a bonfire.

Volunteer Recognition Weekend



Do you volunteer at St. Stephen the Martyr? Do you give of your time and talents in ways that keep us looking and sounding good? Do you perform behind the scenes tasks? If you do, the weekend of May 23rd and 24th is for you. We will look at the many ways people volunteer here at SSM. Join us to see just how many things get done around here.

Book Club

The SSM Book Club will meet Monday, May 18 at 6:30pm. We will be discussing "The Women" by Kristin Hannah. All are welcome to join us!



Thrivent Choice Dollars



Congratulations! In 2025, St Stephen The Martyr Lutheran Church received \$2,474 through the Thrivent Choice® program — and that's worth celebrating! If you own a Thrivent instrument you may be eligible to designate where the Thrivent Choice dollars associated with you account go and you can direct these dollars to St. Stephen the Martyr if you desire. This is a great way to provide financial support.

Loose Ends Lunch

The ladies who lunch will meet at Lychee Gardens Chinese Restaurant at noon on Wednesday, May 27th. Lychee Gardens is located at 7830 Layton Ave. in Greenfield. Please contact Bonnie Daleness if you plan to attend so that reservations can be made.





May 2026

| <i>5th Weekend of Easter</i> | | |
|--|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Saturday, 5/2 | 5:00pm | Worship |
| Sunday, 5/3 | 9:30am | Worship |
| | | Sunday School |
| | 10:45am | Coffee Hour |
| Wednesday, 5/6 | 9:30am | Men's Bible Study |
| | 6:00pm | Handbell Rehearsal |
| | 7:00pm | Choir Rehearsal |
| Thursday, 5/7 | 1:00pm | Quilting - Cut & Sew - until 3:00pm |
| | 6:30pm | Confirmation Class |
| <i>6th Weekend of Easter</i> | | |
| Saturday, 5/9 | 5:00pm | Worship |
| Sunday, 5/10 | 9:30am | Worship |
| | | Sunday School |
| Tuesday, 5/12 | 6:30pm | Mega Meeting |
| | 7:00pm | Council Meeting |
| Wednesday, 5/13 | 10:15am | Women's Bible Study |
| | 6:00pm | Handbell Rehearsal |
| | 7:00pm | Choir Rehearsal |
| Youth Group Bonfire at St. Luke's in the Village | | |
| Thursday, 5/14 | 6:30pm | Unfinished Objects |

7th Weekend of Easter - Meru Coffee Weekend

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Saturday, 5/16 | 5:00pm | Worship |
| | 9:30am | Worship |
| Saturday, 5/17 | | Sunday School |
| | 10:45am | Coffee Hour |
| | | Newcomer Orientation |
| Monday, 5/18 | 1:00pm | Quilting - Layering - until 3:00pm |
| | 6:30pm | Book Club |
| Wednesday, 5/20 | 9:30am | Men's Bible Study |
| | 6:00pm | Handbell Rehearsal |
| | 7:00pm | Choir Rehearsal |
| Thursday, 5/21 | 6:30pm | Confirmation Class End of Year Party |

Pentecost - Volunteer Recognition Weekend

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Saturday, 5/23 | 5:00pm | Worship |
| Sunday, 5/24 | 9:30am | Worship |
| | | Sunday School |

Monday, 5/25 Memorial Day - Office Closed

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Wednesday, 5/27 | 10:15am | Women's Bible Study |
| | 12:00pm | Loose Ends Lunch |
| | 7:00pm | Choir Rehearsal |

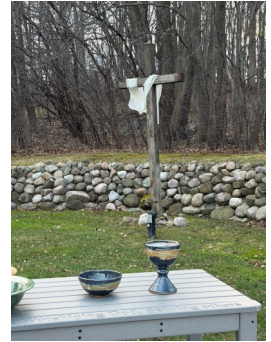
Holy Trinity

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Saturday, 5/30 | 5:00pm | Worship |
| Sunday, 5/31 | 9:30am | Worship |
| | | Sunday School |
| | 10:45am | Coffee Hour |

Pics



April 4th, Easter Vigil

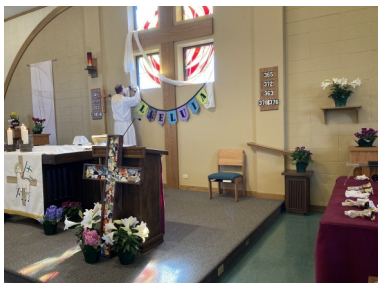


April 5th, Easter 7am



April 5th Easter Breakfast





April 5th,
Easter
9:30am



Baptism of Aurora Lily,
April 19th



Baptism of Theodore Joseph, April 12th



| | | | |
|---------------------|----|------------------|----|
| Bob DeFrank | 02 | Dan Resterhouse | 12 |
| Diane Niese | 03 | Herb Leppien | 15 |
| Isabelle Wassweiler | 04 | Simone Haasch | 15 |
| Audrey Kelroy | 04 | Anthony Revers | 17 |
| Emily Kelroy | 04 | Archie Weber | 17 |
| Shirley Devecka | 05 | Nancy Bugajski | 19 |
| Cathy Peterson | 05 | Pat Burns | 22 |
| Alaina Anderson | 05 | Derek Dietrich | 22 |
| Andre Dean | 05 | Anthony Gagliano | 22 |
| Rachel Ziegert | 06 | Hayes Kreiter | 24 |
| Pam Young | 07 | Ken Kahl | 25 |
| Cherish Pearson | 07 | Mary Luedtke | 25 |
| Wayne Lunde | 08 | Toni Revers | 25 |
| Vic Barth | 10 | Sara Raasch | 26 |
| | | Marisa Burgmaier | 26 |
| | | Nell Stockland | 26 |
| | | Madelyn Lentz | 27 |
| | | Bob Gray | 28 |
| | | Nora Ferguson | 28 |
| | | Joyce Gagliano | 30 |

Good Gifts

Thanks to your efforts \$1070 was raised this past Christmas season

through the purchase of Good Gifts ornaments. The Sunday School selected the following items:

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| A share in a water project | Vaccines for a child |
| Goats & chicks | School fees for a girl |
| A fruit tree farm | Clinic visit for a child |
| Mosquito nets for a family | Internet for students for 1 month |
| Share of a cow | Shelter for 1 week for an LGBTQIA+ youth |





**Mark Your Calendars Now
For Vacation Bible School 2026
Monday, June 22nd to
Thursday, June 25th
5:00pm to 7:00pm
“Weird Animals,
Where Jesus’ Love
is one-of-a kind”**

Open to all kids 5K to 6th grade

**If a child is under 4 or not potty trained
we ask that a guardian remain on site.**



Council Minutes, March 10

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

Meeting called to order by D Sanders at 7:20 pm. Devotion given by E Sanders. February minutes approved as amended.

Financial Reports: • **Financial Secretary's Report**-February looks good with more giving full pledge amount. Cash balance is strong - \$17,000 over at this time. Monthly distributions were normal. • **Treasurer's report** \$71,000 current building reserve. CD account balance is \$150,000, opened in February. Doing well for February and March. Some distributions still need to be paid. Moving values to adjust accounts to better reflect the CD on balance sheet. GM benevolence for February and March will be paid in March. The financial reports were approved.

Pastor's Time: Gathering to plan and coordinate with Green Corners group Ecumenical Good Friday service and walk at St. Luke's this year at 2:00. New route planned. • Met with Kevin Solomon from Common Ground holding community listening sessions. • Youth activities - taking four youth to the Hope Center closet in Waukesha, organizing chili cook off and youth mini golf at Big Putts. • Visit to Black Holocaust Museum planned for March 14. • Children's Christian Theatre will be at SSM on March 21.

Council discussions **Position Reviews:** Council reviewed responsibilities and qualifications for the President and Vice President positions. Both position sheets were updated. Discussion included adding information on hiring and managing paid staff. Should there be a separate sheet on the role and responsibilities of the Executive Committee? **GMS Community Mural Appeal:** The mural will be found at 53rd and Capital. An appeal was made for gifts for the mural. **Distribution of Trust Contribution:** A gift of \$18,400 was given to SSM by the Donna Carver Trust. The gift was undesignated. A motion passed to allocate 1/3 each to the endowment fund, general fund, and special appeals. Of the special appeals amount, \$1000 was given to the GMS mural. The amounts can be adjusted as needed throughout the year. Anything not delegated can go to general funds at the end of the year.

Council Minutes, Continued

Banner Review Three banners, designed by Tom, were reviewed. The banner, once the final design is approved, will be 6 feet by 2 feet. After discussion, some suggestions were made to the banner design. Denise will share those suggestions with Tom. The revised banner will be reviewed at the April Council meeting. **Committee Reports: Human Concerns** Summer food pantry focus will be on simple kid food collected in kiddie pools. The suggested food list will be shared. **Youth and Family** 100 Easter goody bags were assembled by the Sunday school classes and given to St. Al's food bank. This replaces the Easter egg hunt this year. **Christian Education** A trip to the Black Holocaust Museum is planned for Saturday, March 14. If there are 10 or more signups, we can get a guided tour. **Finance** The schedule is set for counting weeks. **Stewardship** No report **Property** The Martin Luther room work is completed. A quote has been received on card readers for front door. Some plumbing work is needed in the basement. Does anyone know of a good plumber we can use? **Music and Worship** Nothing new to report. **Fellowship** Volunteers are needed if we are going to have a rummage sale this spring. There are signup sheets on the bulletin board. **Evangelism** The Holy Week schedule will be posted on Facebook.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40. Pastor Brian offered a closing prayer. The next Mega/Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14 at 6:30. Respectfully submitted Carol Jackett, Secretary

Summer Worship



**Prayer Garden Worship begins
Thursday, June 11th
and continues**

**Through Thursday, September 3rd
at 6:30pm**

**Saturday Worship at 5:00pm resumes September 12th
the weekend after Labor Day**



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

St Stephen the Martyr ELCA

6101 S. 51st Street

Greendale WI 53129

(414) 421-3543

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.***

May 2026



Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others