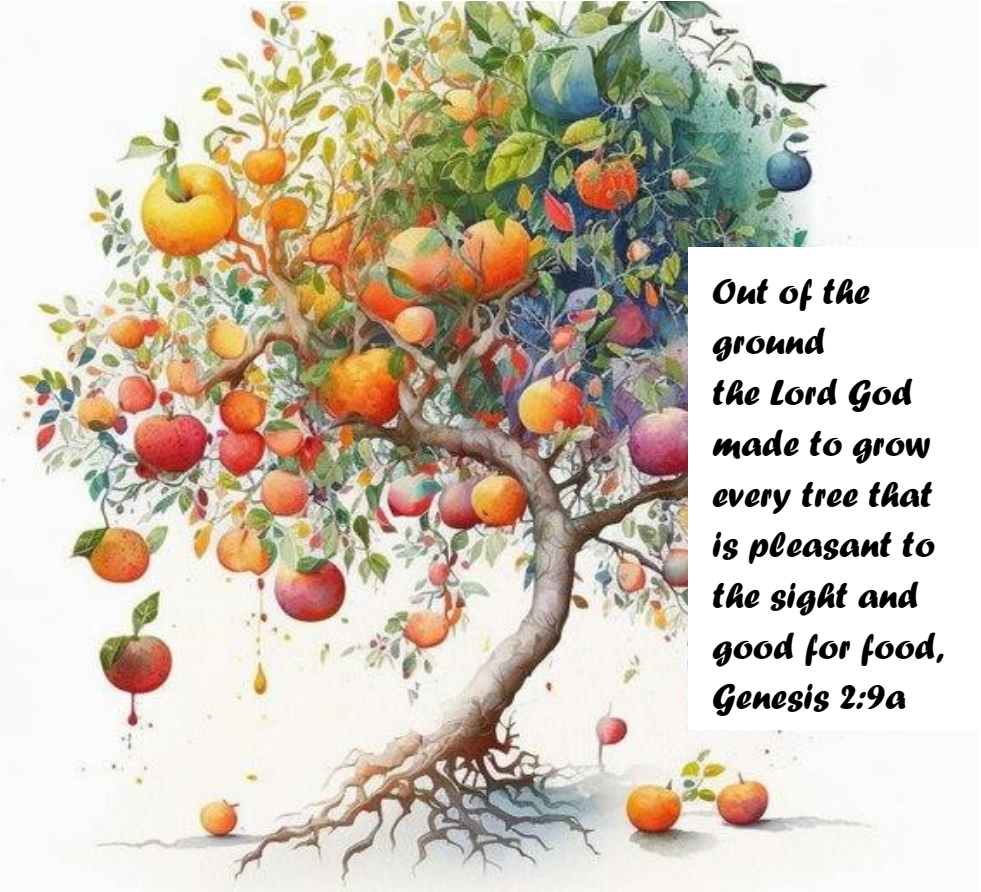


# MARTYR MONTHLY

JUNE & JULY 2026



*Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, Genesis 2:9a*

**Worship at St. Stephen the Martyr**

**Saturday 5:00pm – June 4th**

**Thursday 6:30pm in the Prayer Garden beginning June 11<sup>th</sup>**

*There will be no Saturday worship services during the summer*

**Sunday 9:30am\***

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

# Pastor's Page



Dear SSM Community,

After a cold spring, it is beginning to feel like summer. As we become fully embraced by the warmth of summer, I invite you to take time (whether you are busy or not) to fully enjoy the beauty of the world around you. Make an effort to slow down, take a breath, pause, and enjoy all that creation has to offer. Sit in a park, do some gardening, stop and 'smell the roses' (or any other flower!), or take a walk.

As you experience the wonders of the Earth, make an effort to do something, anything, no matter how small to take care of God's beautiful creation.

On Thursday nights during the summer there will be worship in the prayer garden. This takes place at **6:30pm and begins on June 11**. On June 18<sup>th</sup> in the garden there will be a cookout and we will have a special blessing/sendoff for all the youth going to Montgomery, AL for the summer youth trip. Stop by the garden any time during week if you need a break.

Another opportunity to be outdoors will be to take part in the **Pride Parade on June 7<sup>th</sup>**. A new congregational banner is being created and will make its debut in the parade.

As we head into the summer months please keep me aware of any particular health needs or situations that you might be facing. I am also available for any grief support. Please give me a call, text or email. I am with you in whatever the circumstance may be.

I am glad we were able to celebrate our volunteers in one small way during the weekend of Pentecost. If you were not there, hear this "Thank you!" Thank you for all the time, service, and energy you put into the church and in the world. I am grateful for you. Thanks for your dedication and the big and small ways that you give of your time. I hope and pray that these months ahead are times of refreshment for all of us-and for the body and soul. Enjoy God's creation.

Peace, Pastor Brian

# Human Concerns

**Food Ministry News** – Our summer food collection focus will be kid friendly food. These are food items a child can prepare and consume easily. A suggested list of items is available on the bulletin board outside our worship space and will be included in weekly bulletins throughout the summer. Our Food ministry partners will each receive one month of food donations and



share in the monetary donations.

As always, monetary contributions designated for “Food Ministries” are welcomed!

Place food donations in the kiddie pools located in the entryway and in the coat room!



**Tippecanoe** is starting a pilot project to help the unhoused do their laundry this summer. If successful, it will run all year round. SSM CAN HELP by collecting quarters and dollar bills and donating items such as laundry soap, socks and personal care items. Washer fees are approximately \$4 to \$7 per load! The coin jar and blue bin for donations are located on the bench in the Narthex. We can also occasionally provide a bag lunch SSM's first Sunday to provide a bag lunch is Sunday June 7. The Program starts May 24th and will be the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month this summer. This is a great way to get to know and help many in our community who are struggling. Checks or money can also be put in an envelope marked Tippecanoe Laundry and placed in the offering plate. If anyone is interested in helping please contact Nancy Mineau. Thank you!



# Meru News

**Meru Partnership News** – Julie Starks will join Bishop Paul Erickson and two pastors from the Greater Milwaukee Synod in Arusha, Tanzania as a part of a churchwide Tanzania Partnership Consultation. 10-12 ELCA Synods will participate with their Tanzania partners in late August to focus on scriptural and relational grounding, contextual updates and understanding and on setting strategic relational priorities. A short visit to our partner Mbaaseny hopefully will be included.



**Meru Coffee Project** – We were fortunate to have a visit from Brenda Skelton from the Meru Coffee Project who told us a bit about the coffee project and the Tanzanian coffee farmers who benefit from the project. Brenda said that 63% of all coffee sale funds go directly to these farmers, which represents a much larger amount than they would get from any other buyer. The balance of funds go to assisting the farmers and paying for shipping and other unavoidable expenses. The coffee is grown in Tanzania on small farms of 1 to 3 acres, packaged in bulk and shipped to us. All of the people who prepare and package the coffee once it arrives here are volunteers. Thank you to Patti Nelson, who is on the board of the Coffee Project, Shelly Rosenstock who is our coffee ambassador and Julie Starks who is our Tanzania liaison.



# It's Quilting Bee Time

When you make a quilt, you are in a conversation with the fabrics texture, its weight, its color and most importantly, all the people around you. JUNE15 will be the Quilting Bee, 9-3 at SSM. Please join the SSM PieceMakers. All are welcome, no sewing required, unless that is your thing, just bring a dish to pass/dessert (sign-up sheet on bulletin board). With this date in mind. There will also be a cut and sew on June 4 to prepare for the Bee. Questions? Talk to Betty Kroll or Marge Muroi.



## Fall Rummage Sale



We are hoping to make the 2026 sale bigger and better than the last. So, start saving items to donate for the event. We will combine this with a lemonade sale and brat fry. Let us know if you have any additional ideas for the event. This will be a fundraiser for both the church and local charities. We appreciate your thoughts and ideas, willingness to donate items and volunteer your time to help make this event a success.

**FALL RUMMAGE Friday and Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> of September**

## Book Club

SSM Book Club will meet on Monday, July 27 at 6:30 pm. We will be discussing the book *Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride. Meetings left for the rest of the year (and into 2027!):  
September 28

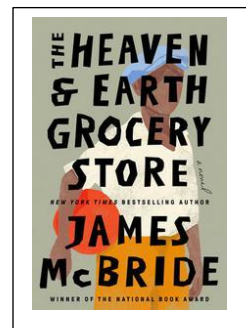
The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas

November 30

Book Club for Troublesome Women  
by Marie Bostwick

January 25

Theo of Goldin by Allen Levi





# Happy Birthday



## June



## July

Heidi Mayer	02
Donna Kopplin	03
Beverly Weeden	05
Eric Sanders	06
Ryleigh Revers	06
Ander Ceku	07
Jacob Zoske	09
Sidney Covert	11
Diane Stojanovich	12
Susan Jarchow	12
Andrea Hanna	13
Nora Burmeister	13
Bennett Ceku	14
Jaxson Easterlin	16
Bobbi Jo Hinkley	19
Dalton Hinkley	19
Mason Hinkley	19
Pamela Gleason	20
Pat Rojik	22
Erin Malinowski	23
Roger Lehman	24
Carter Revers	24
Sara Raasch	26

Raymundo Guardiola	01
Owen Sanders	01
Kyle Mayer	05
Don Manning	06
Paige Ceku	08
Geri Lucchesi	09
Julie Starks	09
Gail Zuleger	10
Layra Nehring	10
Gail Jakus	11
Rohn Rech	12
Leah Jajtner	15
Payton Manning-Fuentes	15
Denise Sanders	16
Steve Mayer	17
Kelly Sachse	18
Heidi Dietrich	18
Dylan Dietrich	18
Paisley Julseth	19
Jim Hennessy	20
Patti Winter	20
John Hoffman	21
Jane Miller	21
George Gifford	24
Billie Jo Kunesh	24
Cody Raasch	25
Tyler Myszkowski	25
Milla Marie Gorecki	25
Clare Stockland	26
Debbie Barth	30
Patrick Rafalski	31

**We extend a special Thank You to our choir and handbell choir who will be taking a break this summer, and a special Thank You to [ ] for her leadership.**



# Stewardship



Sunday May 23 marked the third of the churches three major festivals of the church year: The Feast of the Incarnation (Christmas); The Feast of the Resurrection (Easter); The Feast of Pentecost. Immediately following is a fourth, The Feast of the Holy Trinity a remembrance of the centrality of God in the history of the world.

They are festivals indeed; we celebrate God in the events of our lives and our world. God flooded the universe with living presence as the *Spirit* hovered over the face of the void and from the midst came the voice “Let there be light.” God fashioned humanity from the dust of the earth and breathed into the lungs the *breath* of life and there came forth a living being. In Jerusalem 50 days after the resurrection a great *wind* blew through the house and tongues of fire appeared on their disciples’ heads and they who had been terrified and locked away in a room couldn’t keep quiet as they proclaimed God’s deeds through Christ Jesus. God reversed the barriers of Babel and all, in every tongue and every race, understood the works of God. Spirit, Breath, Wind are all contained in the word Ruah in Hebrew and Pneuma in Greek. God breathed again into the lives of his beloved people and they found life again after death.

The Breath of God is the source of all life. God has breathed into the world the breath of life and we breathe because God breathed life into us . The Spirit of God continues to breathe us into life. As we continue to grow in our relationship with God, we celebrate the life that courses through our veins and pulses through our lungs and so it goes forward through our life as we possess it and go out in the world to share it. As we share the life that God has given us, we steward the life that God has given us for the life of world. Sharing our lives with the world is what God had in mind when he called us into life. “Share my life with the world,” said God to Abraham. “Share my life with world,” said the Savior to his dispels and he tells us to “Share my life with the world.”

God be with you, Rev. Dr. Kipp W. Zimmermann, Stewardship

## Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin: A Source for Civic Engagement Materials

The [Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin](#) (LOPPW) is a ministry of the ELCA that engages Lutherans in nonpartisan advocacy for policies that promote peace, justice, and care for all of God’s creation. Working in collaboration with ELCA World Hunger and the six ELCA synods with congregations in Wisconsin, LOPPW represents the coordinated public policy witness of the ELCA in Wisconsin and serves as a bridge of communication between congregations and lawmakers in Madison.

In 2026, we have two upcoming elections – **the primary election (Aug. 11 in Wisconsin) and the general election (Nov. 3)**. Election years are an opportunity for congregations and individuals to coordinate nonpartisan civic engagement activities. The ELCA teaches that civic engagement is both our calling as Christians and a responsibility for residents of the United States.



LOPPW has an Elections 2026 webpage to share information and resources. We are planning two online events this year, will offer an opportunity for youth education leaders to attend a training, and will share resources that can be used by congregations, ministry teams, and individuals. Please visit our elections webpage to learn more: [loppw.org/election/](http://loppw.org/election/)

You can also sign up for our mailing list to receive updates at: [loppw.org/action/mailling-list/](http://loppw.org/action/mailling-list/). Contact Kacy Kostiuk, Director, at [kacy.kostiuk@elca.org](mailto:kacy.kostiuk@elca.org) or 608-940-1808 with any questions or if you would like to learn more.

# Summer Worship



The summer worship schedule will begin on Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> with our first Prayer Garden service of the season. Worship will be at 6:30pm every Thursday until Labor Day in September. Saturday worship will begin again on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

Rally Day and the first day of Sunday School for the season will be on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

Other special worship events during the summer:

Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup> there will be a Cookout with a Youth Blessing and Send Off prior to Prayer Garden Worship. This will begin at 5:30pm and all are welcome to wish safe travel to our youth and youth from St. Luke's Waukesha as they head out to Montgomery for a week of learning and fellowship.



Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> is the outdoor worship service in conjunction with Village Days. (Village Days take place in the village of Greendale that weekend.) Worship will be a 9:00am in the Hose Tower Parking Lot. There will be more information as the date approaches.

## Youth Events

**Mini Golf on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm** at the Mooreland Golf Center located at 5900 S Mooreland Road. All golfers will get a \$1.00 cone after golfing.



**Six Flags Trip** is potentially scheduled for August 3<sup>rd</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>. Email Pastor if you would like to participate. More information will be available as the date gets closer.



# June 2026

<b>Wednesday, 6/3</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Men's Bible Study
<b>Thursday, 6/4</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>	Quilting - Cut & Sew – until 3pm
<b><i>2<sup>nd</sup> Weekend after Pentecost</i></b>		
<b>Saturday, 6/6</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	Worship
<b>Sunday, 6/7</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Worship
	<b>2:00pm</b>	Last Day of Sunday School for the Summer Pride Parade
<b>Tuesday, 6/9</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	Mega/Council Meeting
<b>Wednesday, 6/10</b>	<b>10:15am</b>	Women's Bible Study
<b><i>3<sup>rd</sup> Weekend after Pentecost</i></b>		
<b>Thursday, 6/11</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	Prayer Garden Worship
	<b>6:30pm</b>	Pride Worship at Ascension Lutheran Church
<b>Sunday, 5/14</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Worship
<b>Monday, 6/15</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	Quilting Bee – until 4pm
<b>Wednesday, 6/17</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Men's Bible Study
<b><i>4<sup>th</sup> Weekend after Pentecost</i></b>		
<b>Thursday, 6/18</b>	<b>5:30pm</b>	Cook Out Send off for Montgomery Trip Travelers
	<b>6:30pm</b>	Prayer Garden Worship
<b>Sunday, 6/21</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Worship
<b>Monday, 6/22</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	Vacation Bible School – until 7pm
<b>Tuesday, 6/23</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	Vacation Bible School – until 7pm
<b>Wednesday, 6/24</b>	<b>10:15am</b>	Women's Bible Study
	<b>5:00pm</b>	Vacation Bible School – until 7pm
<b><i>5<sup>th</sup> Weekend after Pentecost</i></b>		
<b>Thursday, 6/25</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	Vacation Bible School – until 7pm
	<b>6:30pm</b>	Prayer Garden Worship
<b>Sunday, 6/28</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Worship
<b>Monday, 6/29</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>	Memorial Committee Meeting



# July 2026



<i>6<sup>th</sup> Weekend after Pentecost</i>		
<b>Thursday, 7/2</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	Prayer Garden Worship
<b>Friday, 7/3</b>	<i>Independence Day Observed – Office Closed</i>	
<b>Saturday, 7/4</b>	<i>Independence Day</i>	
<b>Sunday, 7/5</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Worship
<i>7<sup>th</sup> Weekend after Pentecost</i>		
<b>Thursday, 7/9</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>	Quilting – Cut & Sew – until 3pm
	<b>6:30pm</b>	Prayer Garden Worship
<b>Sunday, 7/12</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Worship
<b>Tuesday, 7/14</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	Mega/Council Meeting
<i>8<sup>th</sup> Weekend after Pentecost</i>		
<b>Thursday, 7/16</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	Prayer Garden Worship
<b>Sunday, 7/19</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Worship
<b>Monday, 7/20</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>	Quilting – Layering -until 3pm
<i>9<sup>th</sup> Weekend after Pentecost</i>		
<b>Thursday, 7/23</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	Prayer Garden Worship
<b>Sunday, 7/26</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Worship
<i>10<sup>th</sup> Weekend after Pentecost</i>		
<b>Thursday, 7/30</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	Prayer Garden Worship
<b>Sunday, 8/2</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	<b>Village Days Worship in Greendale Village No Worship at SSM</b>

## *Pride Celebrations*

**Pride Fest at the Summerfest Grounds, June 4, 5 & 6  
Pride Parade, June 7**

2:00pm Step Off Time on 2nd St. in Walker’s Point between  
Scott St & Seeboth St.

(be there by 1:00pm if you plan to march)

### **Pride Worship**

6:30pm at Ascension Lutheran Church  
1236 S Layton Blvd. Mke

# Loose Ends Lunch

The Loose Ends Lunch for June will be at Famous Dave's BBQ located at 5077 S 27<sup>th</sup> Street in Greenfield. Lunch will be on May 12th at noon. Please contact Karen Hoffman to let her know if you plan to attend.



# Bonfires with Brian



In May I participated in a wonderful continuing education event centered around storytelling. For me it was a joyful experience as I enjoyed telling stories and hearing stories. Now I want to hear your stories!

As a community story project, I am launching, **“Bonfires with Brian!”** The plan is to meet around a bonfire and tell and hear our community stories. There will be four opportunities to participate.

On bonfire nights we will gather at church or my home from 6:30 to around 8pm or so. There will be signups at church and we will limit each bonfire gathering to 12 participants so that everyone has a chance to share.

June 12: Share an experience of Home. (at the Hooper home)

July 22: Share an experience of Community. (at church)

August: Tell about a significant act of service you participated in.

September: What is the story you want people to tell about you at the end of your life.

# Congratulations Graduates

We will be recognizing our graduates during worship on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. All graduates earning a high school, college or advanced degree will be honored along with those who have completed training in a trade or apprenticeship (even if it is not called a graduation) will be honored for their accomplishment. If you have not already done so, please let the office know if you or a family member has met this milestone. Please include a few sentences about where the person is graduating from and what the immediate or long-term plans are for the next venture. Here are some of the folks from whom we have received information, others will appear in the August Martyr Monthly.



Rae Brown, child of Julia Suchy, earned their PhD in Biochemistry from Stanford University this year. Commencement is upcoming. They will continue working in their current lab through the summer while applying for jobs back in our area. They plan to move back to the Midwest in early fall.

Mya Kling will graduate from Greendale High School. She will attend University of Wisconsin River Falls. She will major in Pre Vet Animal Science and minor in Chemistry.

Jonah Miller is graduating from Greenfield High School this June. He has been accepted to UW-Milwaukee and will be studying psychology.

# Trip to Germany Rescheduled



**Trip to Germany rescheduled:** Mark your calendars. The trip that was planned for 2026 has been rescheduled for October 12-22 2027. More information is to come. Contact Pastor Brian with any inquiries.

## Ministry Assistant Summer Hours

Beginning with the week of June 8<sup>th</sup> Bonnie will not be in the office on Mondays. Her hours will be Tuesday to Thursday 9:00am to 2:00pm and Friday 9:00am to noon. This may vary some depending upon scheduled events.

## Council Minutes, April 14, 2026

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

The meeting was called to order by D Sanders at 7:00pm. Opening prayer and devotion given by Julie. March meeting minutes approved as amended.

**Financial Reports: Financial Secretary's Report** We are slightly under the cash budget amount but still in good shape YTD because of the \$6,100 contribution to the General Fund from the recent Trust donation. Offerings tend to be down during this time of the year, but we are still in good shape.

**Treasurer's Report** Special Easter Fund donation sent to the Synod and designated to the Meru Diocese (Mbaaseny Parish).is 60% of the total amount donated. This led to a discussion of how much we are sending to Meru. Could this be increased by using some of the Thrivent funds? Jason was contacted by "Lightwell Insurance" which is a competitor of Church Mutual (current insurer). Lightwell Insurance seems like a suitable insurance alternative and worth looking into since our rates have not changed, but the

deductibles are now much higher. Jason and Denise to meet with Lightwell Insurance later in May or June.

**Pastors Time**: Pastor will be attending a continuing education training session on “Story Telling” from May 3rd to May 8th. A group from SSM visited the Black Holocaust Museum on March 14. The Children's Christian Theatre performed a play at SSM on March 21. Conducted monthly Confirmation classes.

**Position Description Review**: Evangelism review is being rescheduled. Fellowship, the focus is on the people within the church. How can we use events to strengthen relationships? The Council found several activities the Fellowship Committee already supports, including Rally Day, rummage sales, and bonfires. To raise awareness of SSM in the community, should we consider offering lunch or dinner for the community? Should we form a volunteer group to support events and special activities? Church Banner, the Council reviewed three banners. we are close to selecting the final version at the next Council meeting.

**Committee Reports Human Concerns** When reviewing the April finances, the subject of how we support Meru was covered. How can we increase donations to them and better support Meru? A motion was made and passed to increase the Meru donation by using \$500 of the Thrivent Fund. **Youth and Family** No report **Christian Education** Book club doing good. Next meeting scheduled for May. Over ten SSM members attended the Black Holocaust Museum visit in April, we were able to get a guided tour. **Finance** No report **Stewardship** No report **Property** • A compressor install will be done in the next couple of weeks The community oven needs to be looked at soon because the oven door does not close properly. **Music and Worship** No report **Fellowship** Rummage sale on hold, not enough volunteers to do one in spring. We can look at fall. The date needs to be scheduled far in advance for the next one. **Evangelism** No report  
Meeting adjourned at 8:15. Pastor Brian offered a closing prayer. The next Mega/Council meeting, Tuesday, May 12 at 6:30. 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)

**St Stephen the Martyr ELCA**

6101 S. 51st Street

Greendale WI 53129

(414) 421-3543

## **WORSHIP AT SSM**

**SATURDAY JUNE 6 AT 5:00PM**

**THURSDAY BEGINNING JUNE 11  
AT 6:30PM IN THE PRAYER GARDEN**

**SUNDAY AT 9:30AM\***

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



# June & July 2026

