ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR LUTHERAN CHURCH
Saturday, October 31st, 2026 5:00pm
Sunday, November 1st, 2026 9:30am

All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. At the Lord's table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem.

Please note: *Sunday Service is streamed, recorded and posted on YouTube beginning with the prelude and continuing through the postlude. Be aware that you may be recorded when coming up the center aisle for communion.*

ELW is the cranberry red Evangelical Lutheran Book of Worship

SSM is equipped with hearing assistance devices. If you would like more information on how to gain access please see an usher for the instructions and assistance.

PRELUDE **(5:00)** "Abide with Me" -arr. A. Whitworth
(9:30) "Behold the Host Arrayed in White" – Kevin Hildebrand

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP
P: Loving God, the saints through all the ages praise you.
C: Your glory shines. Alleluia!
P: The saints in our lives have borne witness to your grace.
C: Your mercy raises us to new life. Alleluia!
P: Fill us with your spirit, that we may be your saints,
shining with your light in the darkness.
C: Your love shines in us; and we praise you and serve you. Alleluia!

GATHERING HYMN: ELW #422 For All the Saints *verses 1, 2, 6 & 7*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.
C: Amen.
P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.
P: Compassionate God,
C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.
P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
C: Amen.

GREETING
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: And also with you.

THIS IS THE FEAST

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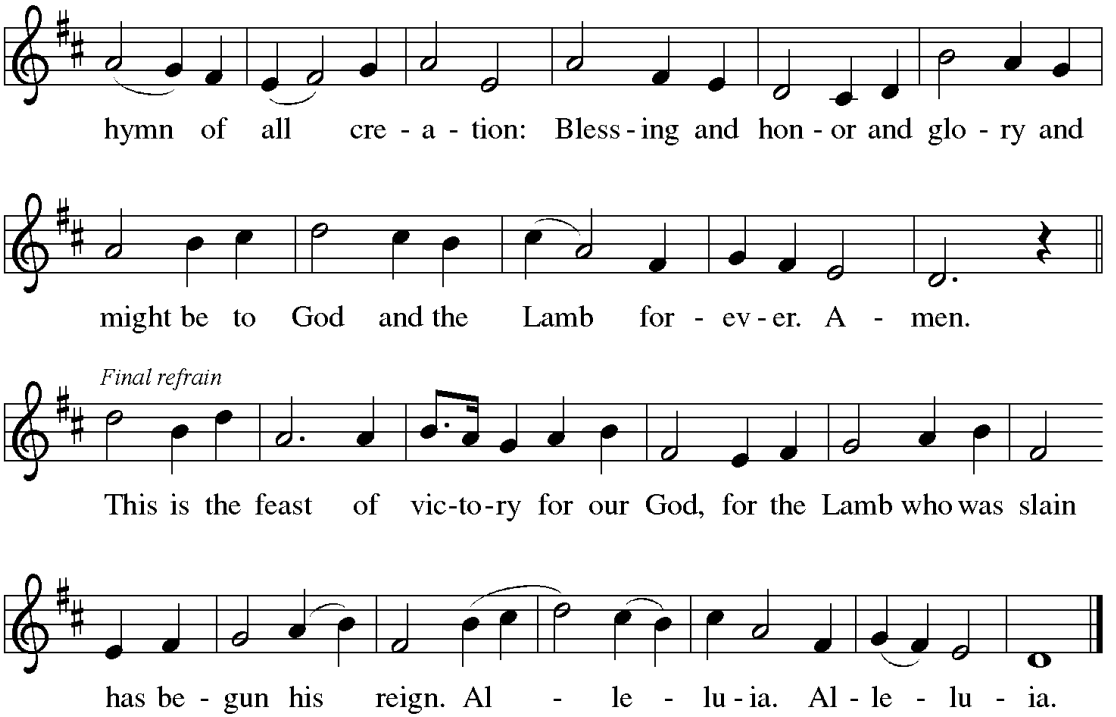


PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: Almighty God, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (9:30) Alex Dollar

FIRST READING Revelation 7:9-17

The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. Today's reading is a response to the question asked in 6:17: "Who is able to stand?" The writer gives the faithful the assurance of God's protection and a vision of victory.

9 After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every
nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before
the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried out in a loud
voice, saying,
"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!"
11 And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living
creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 singing,
"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."
13 Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and
where have they come from?" 14 I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he
said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed
their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
15 For this reason they are before the throne of God
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
16 They will hunger no more and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat,
17 for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

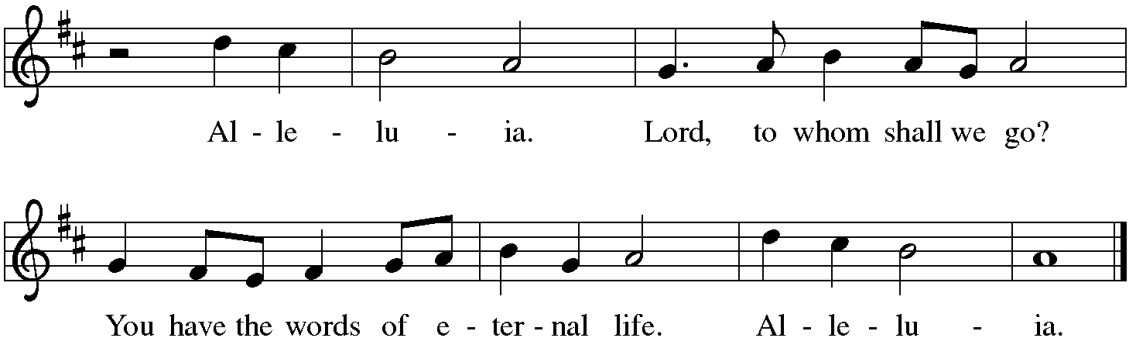
SECOND READING 1 John 3:1-3

A saint is one who has been set apart by God for God's purposes. God, out of divine love, set us apart to be the children of God. Our holy hope is that we shall see God as God really is.

1 See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and
that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.
2 Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What
we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.
3 And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(please stand as you are able)*



GOSPEL Matthew 5:1-12

In the Beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God's favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over others.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[1] When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. [2] And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

[3] "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[4] "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

[5] "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

[6] "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

[7] "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

[8] "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

[9] "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

[10] "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[11] "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. [12] Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE "Saint Goodness" Rev. Brian Hooper

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #628 Jerusalem, My Happy Home

APOSTLES' CREED *(Please stand as you are able)*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Each petition will end with the words, "God, in your mercy, After each petition the congregation will respond, "**hear our prayer**."*

SHARING OF THE PEACE *(please be seated after sharing the peace)*

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

CHOIR ANTHEM (9:30) "Going Home" -Dvorak

OFFERINGS

Offerings can also be made electronically using the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app. More information can be found on our website ssmelca.org or use the QR codes listed here:

for Google *for iPhone*

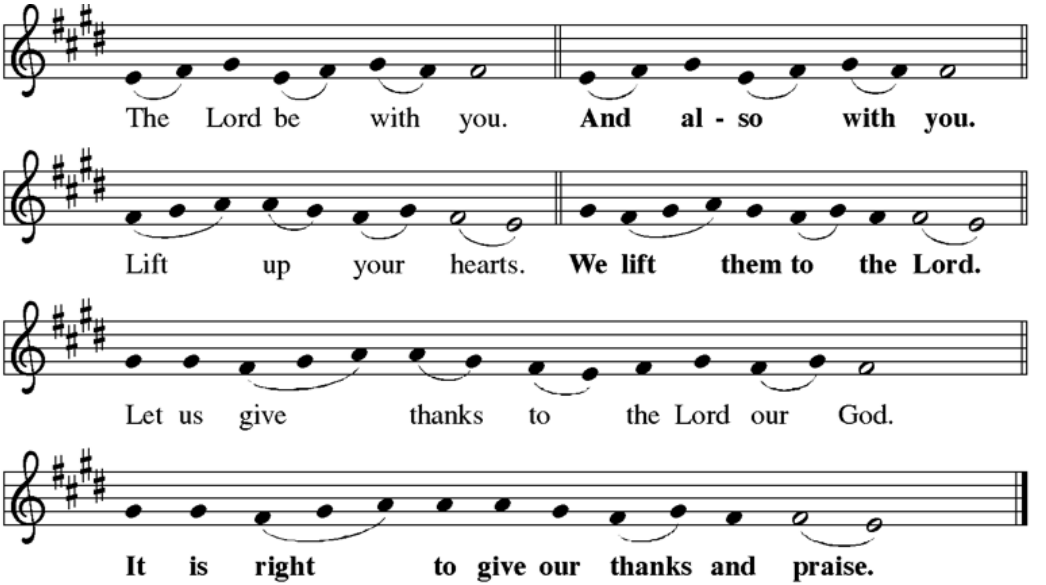
OFFERING PRAYER

P: Gracious God, we thank you for your abundant blessings and for the opportunity to share the gifts you have entrusted to us. Our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer. Bless these offerings and the lives dedicated to your service. Use them to strengthen our ministry, care for our neighbors, and share the love of Christ with the world. May we give and serve with grateful hearts, trusting in your grace and abundance. In Jesus' name we pray.

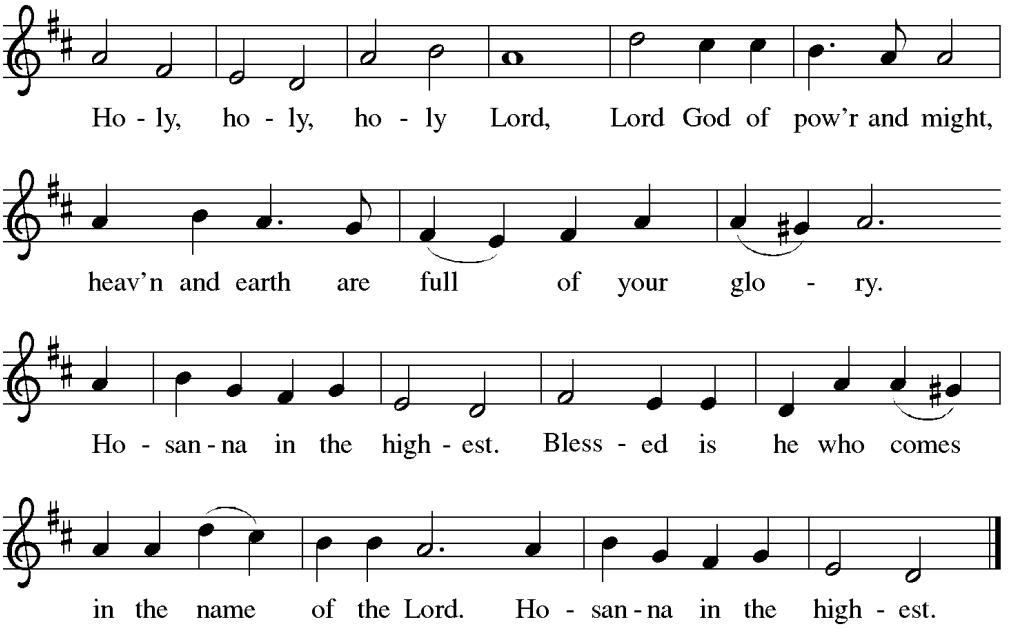
C: Amen

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION: "In the night…"

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be Thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR SAINTS

P: O God of the pilgrim's way, we give thanks for those in generations past who have been examples for us of God's love at work in the world. As we pray, we know that we are surrounded by this great, rejoicing cloud of witnesses. Yet even as we name these holy ancestors, we thank God for others whose names we never knew or have forgotten, who showed us the meaning of life in Christ. We especially pray for the family members of the SSM members who have completed their baptismal journey in the past year, Penny Dowling, Ken Kahl, Jon Kolar, Carol Mueller, Bob Soderstrom, Darlene Waters, Bill Wesolowski.

C: We give thanks.

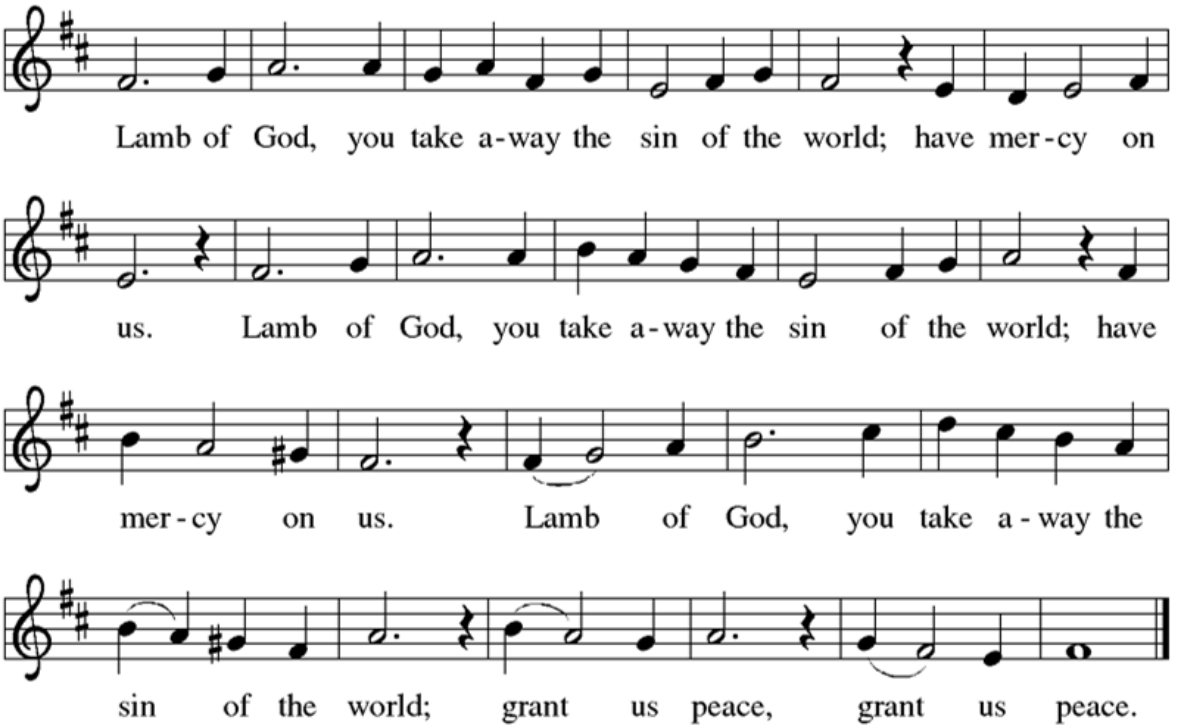
P: Holy God, we honor these, our ancestors in faith and members of our family.
We, too, seek to do your will: guide us.
We, too, desire to be your servants; strengthen us.
We, too, long to know you clearly; teach us.
And in time, bring us to our eternal home of peace and joy.

C: Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING IN REMEMBRANCE OF LOVED ONES

As you come forward for communion you are invited to take a candle at the front pews, receive flame from an usher and place the candle in the cross-box in remembrance of loved ones as a symbol of our Easter hope in Christ. Worshipers are encouraged to place their lit candle of remembrance at the top of the cross or the top of one of the arms of the cross, working downward, so that other worshipers do not have to reach over lit candles to place their candle in the cross. After placing your candle you may proceed to either the left or the right to receive the wafer and wine or grape juice.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMN ELW #425 Behold the Host Arrayed in White

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Loving God, we give thanks for the faith and witness of our loved ones who have gone before us and lived and died in faith. May our memories of our loved ones strengthen and support us in the days ahead. You hold us closely Lord, and we give thanks. Fed and nourished in this meal of holy communion, may we go forth to help feed others and serve others. Send us out, awake to your presence among us. In Jesus name we pray.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Please be sure to read the printed announcements.)*

BLESSING

P: The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: ELW #423 Shall We Gather at the River

DISMISSAL
P: Go in peace. Encourage one another.
C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE (5:00) "Saint's Bound for Heaven" -arr. S. Scott
(9:30) "For All the Saints" -arr. K. Hildebrand

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Flowers are provided by Cathy Peterson in memory of loved ones

THANK YOU FOR SERVING IN WORSHIP
Ushers: (5:00) Jim Hennessy, Herb Leppien **(9:30)** Pat & Shelley Burns, Nancy Mineau
Acolyte: (9:30) Penny Whitmore
Readers: (5:00) Patti Nelson **(9:30)** Bonnie Zimmermann
Communion: (5:00) Set Up Bonnie Curt, **Server** Patti Nelson
(9:30) Set Up Denise Sanders **Servers** Denise Sanders, Bonnie Daleness
Streaming Technician: Eric Sanders
Coffee Hour: Debbie Barth

Announcements

It is time to order your **Christmas Poinsettias.** Please see the display in the Narthex to order your red, white or pink flowers to decorate the sanctuary on Christmas. Flowers are $15 for a 6-inch pot or $40 for a 10-inch pot. You do not have to (but can) pay for your flowers when you order. Flowers can be picked up after the Christmas Day service. Orders are due by Sunday, December 6th.

Meru Teen Mother Education Program - A new program provides 1 year of training for teen mothers in the areas of food preparation, tailoring or hair dressing at a Diocese of Meru supported vocational school. Cost is $460/person. The program begins in January. Donations received NOW can be sent in a November wire transfer in time for next year's group. There are 60 girls on the waiting list! Contact Julie Starks for more information, jastarks39@gmail.com, 414-254-253.

November food donations will go to the Bay View Community Center for their food pantry. Please place your food donations in the bins located under the "Giving Station" in the Narthex. Monetary donations are always welcome, mark them "Food Ministry" or use an envelope found on the Giving Station Board.

Human Concerns is collaborating with our partner congregations to support their ministries. **Tippecanoe** is collecting quarters and one-dollar bills and laundry detergent to assist the people they serve with getting their laundry done. **Unity** is looking for specific items to distribute to their guests. There is a blue bin with more information in the Narthex for each of these programs. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Ascension Lutheran Church will host a presentation by Nadia Bolz-Weber about Christian Nationalism titled "Red State Revival" on October 30th. For more information please see the flyer on the bulletin board between the offices.

This Week at SSM			
Wednesday, 11/4	**9:30am**	Men's Bible Study	
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal	
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	
Thursday, 11/5	**1:00pm**	Quilting – Cut & Sew – until 3pm	
24th Weekend after Pentecost			
Friday, 11/6	High School Youth Retreat at Lutherdale through Sunday, 11/8		
Saturday, 11/7	**5:00pm**	Worship	Ushers: Larry & Sue Stasiewski
			Reader: Patti Nelson
			Communion: Heidi Hennessy
Sunday, 11/8	**9:30am**	Worship	Ushers: Dan Resterhouse, Mason Resterhouse, Tom Zuleger
			Acolyte: Josh Dietrich
			Reader: Bob DeFank
			Communion: Cheryl & Dan Stefanski
		Sunday School	

St. Stephen the Martyr Welcome Statement

St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church is a spiritual community grounded in the belief of Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others.

Recognizing that there are those who have historically experienced rejection within congregational life, we strive to welcome and affirm the participation of all people into our community of faith – people of all ages, races and ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, physical and mental abilities, educational backgrounds, family statuses, and economic circumstances.

We are driven to be a welcoming congregation, offer a safe place to worship, and celebrate the diversity of God's family. We are committed to racial equity and invite all people to join us in our faith journey toward greater love, understanding, and mutual respect.

We proclaim that we are an open and affirming congregation, and you are invited to join us.

KEEP THESE SSM MEMBERS IN PRAYER

Sharon Behling, Nancy Bugajski, Pastor Gail Brodersen-Heins, Jay Chadwick, Diana Gastrau, Sue Jarchow, Carolyn Kahl, Joy Kilimann, Sally Kowalewski, Carol Kucharski, Billie Jo Kunesh, Shirley Lieske, Larry Petricek, Joan Retzlaff, Eleanor Salb, Richard Sontvedt and the family of Carol Mueller at her passing

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Brent, grandson of Dennis & Geri Lucchesi
Carol, sister of Heidi Hennessy
Cheryl, sister-in-law of Larry & Sue Stasiewski
Helen, mother of Jenny Koeff
Pam Baranowski, friend of Kelly and Greg Sachse
Evelyn Buck, cousin of Pastor Maren
Arlene Cich, cousin of Don Manning
Grace Court, daughter of Bonnie Court
Corstan Court, son of Bonnie Court
Jennifer F and her family, friends of Kelly Sachse
Julie Francis, daughter-in-law of Sally Kowalewski
Marcia Gabriel, friend of Nancy Mineau & Marion Walton
Karen Gastrau, daughter-in-law of Diana Gastrau
Liane Guthrie, daughter of Dianne Niese
Tim Ingram, grandson of Ron Ropel
Lise James, friend of Kelly & Greg Sachse
Robert Koenen, friend of Don & Carol Manning
Beth Klosinski, daughter of Linda Schmidt
Jon Kowalewski, husband of Sally Kowalewski
Kristine Klugiewicz, sister of Nancy Mineau
Tim Lingen, nephew of Nancy & Bruce Mineau
Christine Lymne, sister of Deb Perl
Linda Oberbrunner, niece of Marion Walton
Ted & Ellen P., family of Gail Jakus
Paul R, friend of Shelly Rosenstock
Leroy Robinson, father of Linda Schmidt
Deb Rusch, friend of Kelly & Greg Sachse
Jakob Sachse, nephew of Greg and Kelly Sachse
Scott & Pam Sawicki, brother & sister-in-law of Sandy Wesolowski
Gloria Simley, sister of Dave and Rae Ann Simley
Richard Sorenson, friend of Jim & Heidi Hennessy
Barb Starks, mother of Julie Starks
Lynne Turnquist, friend of Carol Manning
David Vento, friend of Al Behling
Billy Waters, Stepdad of Lori Salas
Chrissy White, daughter of Sue Herman
Susan White, sister of Sally Kowalewski
Cohen Zettle, family of Pam Young

Rev. Brian Hooper, Pastor
Tabitha Moldenhauer, Music Director
Mark Breutzmann, Saturday Musician
Jim Hennessy, Church Maintenance

Bonnie Zimmermann, Ministry Assistant
Office phone - 414-421-3543
email - office@ssmelca.org
Website – www.ssmelca.org
Facebook - https://m.facebook.com/SSMELCA/

We Remember

Penny Dowling

Ken Kahl

Jon Kolar

Carol Mueller

Bob Soderstrom

Darlene Waters

Bill Wesolowski

HYMN ELW #422 For All the Saints *verses 1, 2, 6, & 7*

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897
Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958
Music from *The English Hymnal* outsied the USA© Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

HYMN ELW #628 Jerusalem, My Happy Home

Text: F. B. P., 16th cent.
Music: LAND OF REST, North American traditional; arr. hymnal version
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

HYMN ELW #425 Behold the Host Arrayed in White

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, alt.
Music: DEN STORE HVIDE FLOK, Norwegian folk tune, 17th cent.; arr. Edvard H. Grieg, 1843–1907
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

HYMN ELW #423 Shall We Gather at the River

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899
Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry