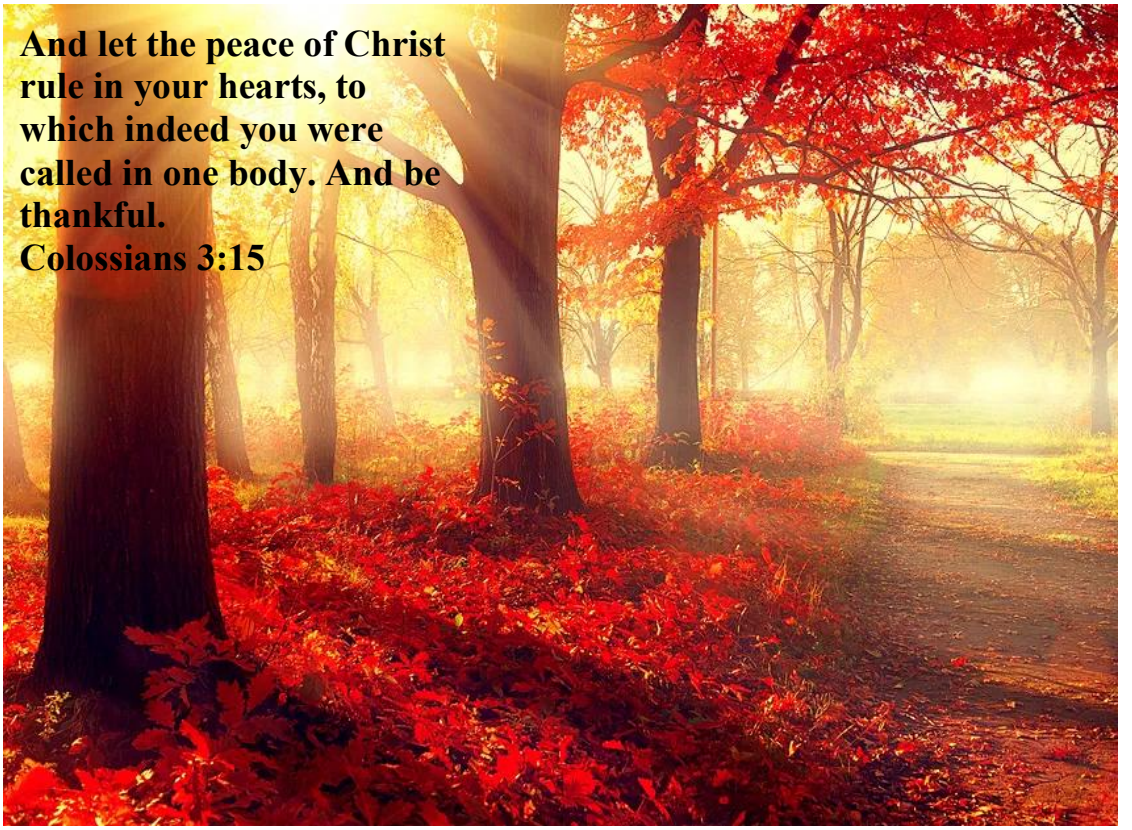
MARTYR MONTHLY
NOVEMBER 2026



Worship at St. Stephen the Martyr
Sunday 9:30am*
Sunday School 9:30am
Saturday 5:00pm

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

Pastor's Page

Dear SSM Faith Community,

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1

There is comfort in things staying the same. Familiar worship, favorite hymns, cherished traditions, and the rhythm of congregational life give us a sense of stability and belonging. They connect us to our shared story and remind us of God's faithfulness through every season.

Yet sameness can also be challenging. When we become too comfortable with what we know, we may miss opportunities for growth or overlook the new gifts and ideas God brings into our community.

Ecclesiastes reminds us that life is full of seasons. There is a time to honor tradition and a time to embrace change. As a congregation, we can be grateful for the familiar things that sustain us while remaining open to where God may be leading us next.

On the weekend of November 1, we pause and remember the seasons of our loved ones lives. We will have a **Table of Remembrance** set up where you can display photographs of loved ones who have lived and died in faith.

Through every season, Christ remains with us—in our routines, our uncertainties, our joys, and our challenges. May we move forward with grateful hearts, open minds, and trust in God's abiding presence.

A Celtic Prayer of Christ's Presence

Christ with me, Christ on my left,
Christ before me, Christ when I lie down,
Christ behind me, Christ when I sit down,
Christ in me, Christ when I arise,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,

May we welcome each season, trusting that Christ walks with us through them all. Peace, Pastor Brian

Memorial Committee

Faith O'Connell reported that the Memorial Committee met on September 21st. Attending were Sandra Petricek, chairperson, Julie Herman, Carol Birk, and Faith O'Connell. Financial records were discussed for 2026. Projects under discussion are Woodworker appointment for an additional Memorial Cross or tree, an assessment of members as to any need for Zoom equipment and/or training. Donation for Mbaaseny parish $600.00 sent with Julie Starks to Tanzania. New lanyards ordered to increase ease of wearing name tags. Tabled items include safety cameras, security glass for the front door and a security door, Outdoor Digital Sign, as always, anyone with interesting ideas, can contact any of the members and/or sit in for a session.

As referenced above, the Memorial Committee is interested in purchasing Chrome books for parishioners who would like to use Zoom for participating in church activities. Chrome Books could be checked out by parishioners who cannot get to church but want to participate in Sunday services, Bible studies or church meetings through Zoom. They would need WIFI access in their homes. We are also looking for people who could help set up the Chrome Books and zoom access and who can teach folks how to use the equipment and program. If you have expertise in this technology, we would like to talk to you about your help. If you are interested in helping us to get this program going or need more information you can call Sandy Petricek (414-336-9495) or by email (sjpetricek21@gmail.com).

Congratulations Confirmands

Congratulations to Andre Dean, Molly Myszkowski, Madaline Miller and Adalyn Kopplin who made their Confirmation on Reformation Day October 26, 2026.

Music and Worship

November brings us to the end of the church year. We will celebrate All Saints on October 31st and November 1st with the lighting of candles in remembrance of loved ones. Christ the King is the 20th and 21st, the last day of the church calendar year. Thanksgiving is the 26th with Advent beginning on November 28th and 29th and the start of the new year. This is a beautiful, busy time for our congregation. There will be frequent changing of the paraments, ordering of poinsettias, extra music to learn and over all preparation for Christmas. This is an exciting time and one filled with opportunities to help around the church. There are decorations to be hung in a variety of places. We would appreciate any and all help.
Thank you, Sandy Wesolowski

Poinsettias are Coming

Poinsettia order forms and information will be in the Narthex beginning Saturday, October 31st and Sunday, November 1st. Small plants (6" pot) will be $15.00 and large plants (10" pot) will be $40.00. All plants sizes will be available in red, white or pink. Plants will be displayed in the sanctuary in time for the Christmas/Advent Concert on Sunday, December 20th and can be taken home after the Christmas Day service on December 25th (or any time thereafter). As in the past, you do not have to pay for the plants when you order them, they can be paid for any time between placing your order and picking them up, but orders must be in by December 6th as the order must be submitted to Milaeger's on Monday, December 7th. Just fill out your order form (with or without payment) and put it in the collection basket or Sandy Wesolowski's mailbox.

Planning for Christmas

Important Christmas related dates and times for your calendar.

Saturday, November 28th, and December 5th and 12th at 5:00pm Holden Evening Prayer

Saturday, December 19th at 5:00pm Blue Christmas Service

Sunday, December 20th 9:30am, Christmas/Advent Concert

Thursday, December 24th, Christmas Eve worship at 4:00pm and 7:00pm

Friday, December 25th Christmas Day worship at 9:30am

Saturday, December 26th No Worship

Sunday, December 27th 9:30am, Service of Lessons and Carols

Annual Christmas Cookie & Candy Sale

Get out your aprons and chef hats!!! Our much-anticipated SSM 5th annual Christmas Cookie/Candy Sale will be held on December 12th and 13th before and after church services. We are again asking for your help. We are asking each family to donate a batch of their favorite Christmas cookies or candy for the sale. Cookies can be dropped off at church between **9 and 12 on Friday December 11th** or between **9 and 10 on Saturday December 12th.** We will package them for purchase. All proceeds go to both local and international charities. More information to come in bulletins, Facebook and in church announcements.

Human Concerns

Tippecanoe/Divine Intervention. They continue their Laundry Day at a local laundromat every other week. So far the SSM congregation has donated over $200 and more than 15 bottles of detergent and fabric softener. It is appreciated by the guests who show up to wash their clothes as they do not have to wear unwashed clothing and have a little extra in their grocery budget. Although they have decided to NOT to offer the Warming Room this winter (December thru March) they are considering new ways to help the unhoused. Watch for an update in next month's Newsletter. Thank you for all the donations, they are appreciated, Nancy Mineau.

Bay View Community Center They are still undecided about their Christmas Gift Project for this year. Watch for more information toward the end of the month.

Unity Lutheran Church They are continuing their food ministries in their community while they investigate ways to address their problems with their building.

Mount Meru Coffee News The much-anticipated Christmas Traditions blend will be available soon. Watch the coffee table to see when it pops up.

Food Ministry Keep those food donations coming, shelves are very low and all of our food ministry partners, as the need keeps growing. Food donations are delivered each month on a rotating basis to our three food pantry partners: Unity, Faith Santa Fe, and the Bay View Community Center. Monetary donations are divided up and sent just about every month. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, you can use a "Food Ministry" envelope found on the giving station board or clearly mark your contribution "Food Ministry."

News from Meru

Mbaaseny celebrates Children's Day Sept. 20 – Children's Day is celebrated throughout Tanzania on Sept. 20. On this day, children share their talents leading worship including reading, singing and preaching. Afterwards they are treated to a favorite meal of pilau and soda as well as receiving candy and some gifts.

As shared in the October newsletter, a new program is seeking funds supporting the education of teen mothers in the Diocese of Meru. Typically, pregnant teens drop out of school to care for their child and with little means for earning a living. This past year, Magdelena John, head of **Mshikamano Vocational Technical Center** began offering a 1-year certificate program for teen mothers in the areas of tailoring, beauty/hair dressing and food preparation. The young women stay at the school Monday – Friday with families caring for their child. On weekends they return home. The 1-year program cost is $460 and begins in January. The SSM council has authorized funds from our Thrivent Choice account to sponsor 1 teen mother. Individual donations to date have covered a 2nd teen mother. We welcome additional funds to support this program with the notation "Meru Teen Mothers." Asante sana!

UPDATE - ASANTE SANA for your generous support of the Mshikamano Teen Mother's Education program! To date, $4885 has been received which will support almost 11 students. Headmistress of the program, Magdalena John, "Please convey our gratitude regards to your church members for their contributions to uplift the lives of these teen Mothers. May God bless you all!" It is not too late to contribute!

November

All Saints Weekend		
Saturday, 10/31	**5:00pm**	Worship
Sunday, 11/1	**9:30am**	Worship
		Sunday School
	10:45am	Coffee Hour
	11:00am	Confirmation lass at St. Luke's
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 Retreat at Lutherdale through 11/8**	
Saturday, 11/7	**5:00pm**	Worship
Sunday, 11/8	**9:30am**	Worship
		Sunday School
Monday, 11/9	**6:00pm**	Brewed Theology
Tuesday, 11/10	**6:30pm**	Mega/Council Meeting
Wednesday. 11/11	**10:15am**	Women's Bible Stidu
	12 noon	Lunch Bunch
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
25th Weekend after Pentecost		
Saturday, 11/14	**5:00pm**	Worship
Sunday, 11/15	**9:30am**	Worship
		Sunday School
	10:45am	Coffee Hour
	11:00am	Confirmation Class at St Luke's
Monday, 11/16	**1:00pm**	Quilting – Layering – until 3pm
Wednesday, 11/18	**9:30am**	Men's Bible Study
	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
		High School Youth Event – Making sandwiches for Milwaukee Guest House

Christ the King Weekend		
Saturday, 11/21	**5:00pm**	Worship
Sunday, 11/22	**9:30am**	Worship
		Sunday School
Thursday/ 11/16	***Thanksgiving Day – Office Closed***	
Friday/11/27	***Office Closed***	
1st Weekend of Advent		
Saturday, 11/28	**5:00pm**	Worship – Holden Evening Prayer
Sunday, 11/29	**9:30am**	Worship
		Sunday School
	10:45sm	Coffee Hour
Monday, 11/30	**6:30pm**	Book Club

Outreach for Hope Ride Run Walk

Well done SSM! As of this writing, our team of 27 was in the top 10 of fund-raising groups raising over $2400! And as of this writing, over $184,000 has been raised synod wide, well over the goal of $175,000. These funds are used for grants to ministry partners doing God's work throughout the Greater Milwaukee Synod. Riders, runners and walkers enjoyed a beautiful day. SSM had members at Washington Park and at the Waukesha's Shurt Environmental Center.

Lunch Bunch

The November Lunch Bunch will meet at Oak Creek Diner located at 6874 South 13th Street, Oak Creek at noon on Wednesday, November 11th. Please let either Karen Hoffman or Pat Schroeder know if you plan on attending so that reservations can be made.

Quilts and School Bags

The quilts and school bags for 2026 are completed and shipped. We sent 162 quilts and 187 school bags to Lutheran World Relief which were taken to the "ingathering" for shipment on to the LWR warehouse on October 10th. In addition, 26 quilts were sent to Sojourner House here in Milwaukee and 25 school bags were sent along with Julie Starks to the kindergarten operated by our partner parish at Mbaaseny in Meru, Tanzania.
Here are some pictures of the quilts and school bags.

Susan Bucholz	03
Diane Moraza	03
Heidi Hennessy	04
Kurt Krieter	05
Dick Kroll	06
Lilly Revers	08
Duncan Sanders	09
Any Lentz	12
Mason Resterhouse	12
Ruth Urdahl	14
Bob Billman	17
Karen Hoffman	20
Nick Winter	20
Kaylee Gray	23
Cathy Devries	24
Kara Nehring	24
Susan Mildren	24
Mya Kling	26
Diana Gastrau	27
Grayson Kunesh	30
Nola Cooper	30

Happy Thanksgiving

May your holiday gatherings be a celebration of God's abundance

Game On- CAN we continue our winning ways?

With all the game watching that has been going on, there must be aluminum beverage cans available for salvage. Remember the deadline for bringing them to the church garage is November 8th. After that, save them during the winter until April when we salvage again. We have an anonymous donor who will match our collected funds, offering additional help for our food pantries.

Thank You,
Karen and Bob Rasmussen,
Can Coordinators

Third Grade Bibles And First Communion on Reformation

Join us for Brewed Theology!

Monday, November 9th at a new location! 6-7:30 at Eagle Park Brewery (S64 W15640, Commerce Center Parkway, Muskego). November Topic Teaser: Spiritual Disciplines: Practicing Christianity We are being *formed* — shaped by something — every single day: the things we read, apps we scroll, media we listen to, habits we keep. Everything we consume is *forming* us. That said, it's probably a worthwhile exercise to regularly ask: *what and how are we being formed? And by what, or by whom?* For Christians, the answer should have something to do with *Jesus*. But what does this look like in modern practice? Pastor and author John Mark Comer identifies nine core practices drawn from the life of Jesus himself: *Sabbath, Solitude, Prayer, Community, Scripture, Fasting, Generosity, Service, and Witness.* These aren't a to-do list for the spiritually elite. They are, in Comer's words, a way of "training" — much like an athlete trains not just to perform, but to become a different kind of person altogether. During this month's Brewed Theology, we'll discuss: *What forms your faith? What are spiritual practices? Where did they come from? Why do they matter? And more!* Any questions, contact Pastor Brian.

Trunk or Treat – October 24th

Council Minutes, September 8

Present: D Sanders, E Sanders, S Wesolowski, C Jackett, J Covert, L Stasiewski, Pastor B Hooper, J Starks, J Miller, K Zimmermann, A Dollar, K Knipple, L Schuchardt. Excused: K Whitmore.
Called to order by Denise at 7:40. August Council meeting minutes approved as amended. **Financial Secretary's Report:** There is more in general funds than expected because of quarterly income and general offerings. **Treasurer's Report:** Overall, the year is going well. All youth activities have now been paid. Interest income of $2294 from CD has been recorded. Financial statements were approved as presented. **Pastor's Report:** Confirmation kick off is on September 20. Confirmation classes are combined with St. Lukes. Julie Starks will be sharing about Outreach For Hope on September 19-20. On those days she will give the message. A bonfire with Brian is scheduled for Friday, September 18. Confirmation/Reformation with First Communion and third grade Bible presentations will take place on October 25. Meetings are being held to review the SSM Safe Policy document with a goal is to complete by the end of the year. **New Business: Rally Day** scheduled for September 12-13. Volunteers are still needed. **Vice President Update** Lorin Schuchardt's term as Vice President has expired. Kristy Knipple has volunteered to fill the position until the next election effective November 1, 2026. **Council/SSM Google Drive** SSM is considering setting up a google drive that can be used to share information such as financial reports and minutes. **Retreat Discussions** Council reviewed information from the retreat and continued discussion on organizing committees and the Council structure. This is an ongoing discussion. **Newsletter** Articles due by September 15. **Committee Reports: Human Concerns** $1,000 has been given to each food provider. Trip to Tanzania was a great success. Meeting with our partners was good and productive. A "What'sApp group" has been formed for continued communications. School bags (25) were given to our partners. 184 school bags will be filled by the Sunday School classes on September 27. They will then be packed and ready for shipment. **Property** The cost of security cameras for the lower-level parking lot is around $7,000. Of that total, $2.720 is for labor. Larry will follow up to see what could be dropped to lower the cost or other options. **Youth and Family** Rally Day is Sunday, September 13. Hamburgers, hot dogs and desserts will be served, also be activities for the children. Trunk or Treat, open to the community, scheduled for Saturday, October 24 from 2:00 – 3:30. Hopefully, we will have at least 10 or more trunks. Sign up for trunks on the bulletin board. Looking for candy donations and volunteers. Alex is working on a new registration form for youth that will be used for special events and Sunday School. **Evangelism** Time to start preparing Christmas postcards. Considering buying a list of area residences to mail postcards to local families**.** **Music and Worship** Considered having evening bible study but the concern is driving in the dark during the winter. Starting to work on Christmas services. **Finance** Counting continues as scheduled. Getting ready to begin budget planning for 2027. **Stewardship** Pledge cards in the mail by the end of October. **Fellowship** Rummage sale scheduled for Sept. 18 – 19, Brats and lemonade will be sold. The drop-off date is Thursday, Sept. 17. Signup sheets to volunteer and donate on the bulletin boards. **Christion Education** Next meeting Book Club is scheduled for September 28.
Meeting adjourned at 8:25. Pastor offered closing prayer. Next Council meeting, Tuesday, October 13 at 6:30pm. 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
Facebook:
https://m.facebook.com/SSMELCA/

Email: office@ssmelca.org
Phone: 414-421-3543
Sunday School email:
sundayschool@ssmelca.org

Worship at SSM

Sunday at 9:30am*

Saturday 5:00pm

Sunday School 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
Greendale WI 53129
(414) 421-3543

November 2026