



ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR
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The Martyr Monthly



November 2018

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT SSM

Saturday 5:00 PM

Sunday 9:30 AM

Sunday School 9:30 AM

BIBLE STUDIES:

Monday Bible Study: 11/5 @ 1:00 pm

Men's Bible Study: 11/7 & 11/21 @ 9:00 am

Women's Bible Study: 11/14 & 11/28 @ 10:15 am

SSM PRAYER GROUP: 11/20 @ 6:00 pm



PASTOR'S PAGE...

Dear SSM Faith Family

As we turn the calendar to November we begin the month with All Saints weekend, November 3-4. We rejoice in all the saints: those who have died and now rest in Christ, those who live now, and those yet to come.

This year we give thanks for the life and ministry of Deacon Bill Bravener. Bill impacted many with his music and caring personality. While we grieve our loss, we also give thanks for his life, and give thanks as he and many of our loved ones have joined the saints eternal.

While we celebrate the lives of past saints of the church, there are many people whom we have known ourselves who are considered saints. Today and everyday is a day when we can reflect and give thanks for persons who have been influential in our lives through spiritual formation and growth. While the church has many saints, I would argue that many of you have saints in your lives both living and deceased. And so this day and everyday let us celebrate "the saints" who have made a difference in our lives, and live by their examples.

As November is both a time to celebrate Saints and Thanksgiving, I give **Thanks** for the many ways that you serve in saintly ways. Thank you for being part of and planning the celebration of life for Bill and the luncheon. Thank you for stepping up when you see a need or concern. Thank you for giving selflessly of your time and following the servant example of Jesus.

Do you know someone who struggles with addiction?

Addiction and drug abuse affect all of us. I imagine that we all know someone who has struggled with opioids or recreational drugs. The reality is that drugs are present in our community and it is easy to become addicted to them. A first step is to have an awareness of this problem and talk openly about the effects and prevention. Pastor David Gaeth, who serves at Greendale Community church, and his family have been deeply impacted by opioids. Pastor Dave's son, Brennan struggled with opioids and lost his struggle one year ago. Pastor Dave has graciously volunteered some of his time and is willing to share some of his family's experience of addiction and loss at SSM. Pastor Dave will be with the SSM community on Sunday, November 11 at 4pm following the Packers game. We will have pizza following the discussion. Please sign up in the gathering space so we know how many people to plan for.

Peace,

Pastor Brian



STEWARDSHIP

*Because of God's
Great Mercy*



Gratitude --Come Ye Thankful People Come

I am often embarrassed by my friend Norman. He is loud and tells the same old jokes every time we get together. He claims exploits in his youth which never happened. He believes he is a Native American shaman, although the tribe varies from year to year. He orders “muddy water” (coffee) and other things when we eat out, forcing the wait staff to guess what he wants. At times it can be embarrassing.

But what embarrasses me most is his gratitude. He puts me to shame. Norman is the most authentically gracious person I have met. He lives on Social Security. He knows that life is hard and without food banks and Salvation Army, life would be difficult. But he also knows innately that, as noted in Genesis, God created life to be good. So Norman looks for the good and always gives heartfelt thanks when he finds it. He is grateful for everything. Nothing is too small to pass his attention and for him to give thanks. You might think this could be annoying but he is so genuine in his gratitude, instead of being annoyed, I find myself uplifted. And chastised a little, not by Norman, but by my own reflections on how often I have not shown gratitude.

Not showing gratitude is nothing new. I don't know if it is because of our self-centeredness we think whatever happens is our due. I think back to the story of Jesus healing the 10 lepers but only one returning to give thanks—to show gratitude. It often takes an emergency of some sort for us to become aware of all the little things that make life “good”.

One of my favorite Thanksgiving hymns is Come Ye Thankful People Come. God has done so much for us and the world, it is good for us to enter God's presence with thanks and gratitude. Not all thanks are 100% joyful—I am thankful for Bill Bravener and his gifts but wish we had more time with him. I invite all of us, individually and as the body of Christ, to reflect this Thanksgiving on all of the good we see in the world around us and to offer thanks and gratitude to those who bring or reflect this goodness in our lives.

Barbara Fritschel



MUSIC & WORSHIP

The Music & Worship Committee would like to thank all of those who signed up to serve through our **“TRY IT ONCE”** campaign. We are planning to do this again in the early spring, however, if you want to volunteer now, don’t hesitate to talk to Denise Sanders or any member of the committee.

We will adorn the church in white in commemoration of All Saints Day on November 3rd and 4th, honoring all the saints who have come before us. We will return to white again on the final weekend of the church year, Christ the King weekend, which we commemorate on November 24th and 25th. We celebrate Jesus as the King of Love, established through his sacrifice on the cross and his humble service for others.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

As I write this we are in the middle of the Unafraid study on Sunday Mornings. If you were interested in this discussion but were unable to attend but would like to, please let me know and perhaps we can schedule another session at another time.

In November we will begin another video/discussion series called Nooma by Rob Bell. This is an interesting series addressing everyday life issues with catchy names like “Shells”, “Bullhorn” and “Name”. A few examples of the topics to discuss are what is important from a Christian perspective in how we love one another, how we hear God, and how we decide what is important in our lives. Each study is independent of the others, so attend one, a few or all, as you desire. We will begin this series on November 4th and continue through the end of the year.

Come and join us or jump into one of the other education opportunities, Men’s Study 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 9 am, Women’s Study 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 10:15 or the 1st Monday of each month at 1 pm.

Bonnie Zimmermann

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

There will be NO Bible study on November 14th, because of preparation time needed for the Bake & Craft Sale being held on the weekend of November 17-18. The November 28th Bible study will take place as originally scheduled. In December, Bible study will be held on December 12, but NO study on December 26th.

LOOSE ENDS LUNCHEONS

The November lunch will be held on November 14 at Benny's Café on 27th Street. Please contact Jean Switala at 414-817-0826, with any questions. There will be NO luncheon in December.

CHURCHWIDE WOMEN OF THE ELCA

We appreciate and thank you for your generous contributions to our Thankoffering event that took place on September 22-23. Additional thanks to Bonnie Daleness and Julie Starks for their help and participation during that weekend. We will be sending \$963 to Churchwide Women of the ELCA.

BAKE AND CRAFT SALE

The Annual Women of the ELCA Bake and Craft Sale at SSM will be held on November 17th and 18th. New this year will be a Christmas Kid's Corner and a Quilt Raffle. We will also have our popular Themed Baskets. These baskets will be in the Narthex starting November 3rd. You may begin placing bids that weekend and up until the close of the Sale on November 18th.

We will have a baking and pricing day on Friday, November 16th starting at 9:00 at church. We will order subs for lunch. Please consider coming to assist us. Remember, proceeds will go to charities chosen by the Women of the ELCA Board.

ATTENTION PARENTS:

This year the WELCA Craft & Bake Sale, Saturday, November 17th and Sunday, November 18th will be having "*Kids Korner*" for Sunday School Children to buy "Secret" gifts for loved ones. Every gift is \$5.00 and under. Follow up letter will be sent home with kids.

FALL CLUSTER MEETING

The Women of the ELCA Clusters I-IV invite you to attend the Fall Cluster Meeting "In Our Own Voice" being held on Saturday, November 10th, at Redemption Lutheran Church, 4057 N. Mayfair Rd, Wauwatosa. The Bible Study Leader is Intern David Rebey and the Program Leaders are from the National Alliance on Mental Illness. COST: \$12 includes breakfast; \$3 registration only. Registration forms are on the kiosk in the Narthex. Registration deadline is Wednesday, October 31st. For more information please contact Pam Maschke or Karen Hoffman.

HUMAN CONCERNS

SSM/BAY VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER CHRISTMAS GIFT COLLECTION

It does not seem possible, but Advent and Christmas are just around the corner. St. Stephen the Martyr is again teaming with the Bay View Community Center to collect Christmas gifts for 15 children and 15 elderly adults. Our gift collection will begin on November 24th and November 25th. Look for the display in the narthex with gift suggestion cards for each person. We hope to have three gifts for each person. The cards will have suggestions for presents – there is no minimum or maximum you are asked to spend.

Securely attach the card to the gift {wrapped or unwrapped} and bring to church in the next three weeks. The exact date will be announced as soon as we receive the information from Bay View.

Each year we have had an impressive outpouring of gifts to help our friends at Bay View. It is wonderful to see so many gifts and they are greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Birk or Shirley Lieske. Many thanks for your help with this project.

School bags were filled October 7th and shipped October 13th. Thanks to all who contributed supplies, helped cutting and sewing, and packing. A BIG thank you to our Sunday School classes for all your help filling the bags!

Many, Many thanks to all! Together we completed & sent out 256 school bags! God calls us to use our hands to bless others - To reach out and let them know they matter and yes, we care. Thank you & blessings to all!! Shirley Lieske

HUMAN CONCERNS CANDY SALE

Beginning This Weekend! Purchase a Divine Chocolate candy bar for your Sweetheart for Sweetest Day or for a member of your family for Halloween or just because. It's Fair Trade, which means farmers are getting a fair price and access to credit, protecting the environment and funding programs that benefit the entire community, school, clean water, latrines and mobile medical clinics all are funded by Fair Trade, made from all-natural ingredients. Devine uses only the finest cocoa beans for all of your treat baskets. For whatever reason you choose, it will be helping the farmers in Kuapa Kokoo and the surrounding villages to have a better life. Small milk & dark chocolate bars are **\$1.30 ea.** The large bars with various flavors are **\$3.00 ea.**

Thanks to all of you for your continued support.

NEWS & NOTES

ALUMINUM CAN CONTRIBUTERS - ATTENTION

Please note that December 1st will be the deadline to bring your bags of cans to church for sale at the salvage yard. Chances for snow and ice increase in December and beyond and it is too difficult to handle can bags in the winter. It is suggested you save your empty cans until April 2019, at your home, and then resume bringing them to the garage door in the lower parking lot.

Remember, money earned from salvaged cans earns dollars to gift to the food pantries our church supports.

Thank you for your support, Thus far we have earned \$145.00 in can sales.
Bob Rasmussen - Coordinator

NEWS FROM THE FRONT

Dear friends at St. Stephen the Martyr,

As some of you know, I am on internship this year. I started at Cross Lutheran Church in downtown Milwaukee two months ago and am really enjoying the learning experience under the supervision of Pastor Michelle Townsend de Lopez.

Cross is a very racially and economically diverse and mission-driven church. Its ministries include serving a hot meal to the people in the community every Wednesday. The meal is followed by an interactive Bible study before the food pantry opens. Cross provides care and support for 60 men and women who struggle with addictions and are on a path of sobriety. Below the church there is a clinic for the uninsured that is open five days a week. The church has a community garden where individuals and groups can rent a plot for a yearly minimal fee and grow their own products. Cross is also involved with MICAH (Milwaukee Intercity Congregation Allied for Hope), as well as being a sanctuary and a Reconciling in Christ church.

Cross is a very welcoming congregation, and you are certainly welcome to attend the 9:30 Sunday service any time. I appreciate your support on my journey and hope that you will continue to keep me in your prayers.

Isabelle Berry

SNOW PLOW SERVICE NEEDED

We are looking for a new snow plow service provider for the church's parking lot. If you know someone that may be interested in providing a quote for this winter's service, please have them contact the church office



Alert ! **2018 CHRISTMAS SERVICES:** Alert!
Early **Christmas Eve** service at 4:00 pm (Monday),
Late **Christmas Eve** service at 10:00 pm.
Christmas Day service at 9:30 am. (Tuesday)



COUNCIL MEETING CONDENSED MINUTES 10/09/18

President Jason Covert called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Council members present were: J. Covert, B. Daleness, B. Fritschel, J. Muroi, N. Mineau, D. Sanders, J. Schultz, and L. Sweet. Pastor Brian was also in attendance.

September council minutes were approved with corrections.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S AND TREASURER'S REPORTS:

General Offerings were still low in September but October will be better due to one member giving more than their entire year pledge.

Reviewed the Balance Sheet and Receipts and Disbursements reports. As we are hitting the one year mark for Cell Tower (Land Lease) rental a 3% increase will kick in. Received memorial dollars in remembrance of Bill Bravener.

Treasurer's report was approved.

PASTOR'S TIME: The church is adjusting to life without Bill Bravener. The choir and other musicians have stepped up to help out. On October 6 those being confirmed at the end of October had a retreat at Carthage. A Blessing of the Pets service was held on October 6. Pastor Gaeth, whose son died of an accidental overdose, will be speaking at SSM on November 11 at 4:00. All members of the congregation are welcome with a special emphasis on high school students. A new member class will be held at the end of Oct or beginning of Nov. Char will preach on October 20 and 21. Pastor will be attending a 'Leading Well' conference on November 13 to 16. Expenses will be covered by a grant from the Siebert Foundation.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget for 2019 – L. Sweet provided handouts on the 2018 budget and asked all committees to prepare their budget for next year so that we can begin to draft a 2019 budget at our November meeting.

Fed for the Journey dinners – These dinners will be led by the Synod and they encourage 1-2 lay leaders and pastor from each church to attend. Led by Matthew Short. Pastor Brian will attend the dinner on October 29. Other council members interested should see J. Covert.

Confirmation 'Pay It Forward' project – Pastor would like to encourage the confirmands to come up with projects that will benefit the community and asked the Council for \$300.00 to be used by the confirmands in this endeavor. Council approved.

Three Wi-Fi extenders have been added to the building.

COUNCIL MEETING CONDENSED MINUTES CONT.

OLD BUSINESS

Music Director Search – the job was posted in various places this week.

The cell tower is almost complete and clean-up will be done by the contractors after finished.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

STEWARDSHIP:

Council reviewed the new Time and Talent Sheets that will be distributed along with the Estimate of Giving cards this fall. The Stewardship Drive will begin in November and Estimate of Giving cards will be collected the third weekend.

HUMAN CONCERNS:

250 school bags were filled and will be shipped out on October 13.

WORSHIP & MUSIC:

More volunteers are needed especially for the Saturday service at 5. The committee is planning for the holidays.

Next MegaMeeting will be Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Next Council Meeting will be Tuesday, November 13, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Daleness
Council Secretary

