

# MARTYR MONTHLY

## FEBRUARY 2025



**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.*



# Pastor's Page

Dear SSM Community,

On January 12 the SSM faith community took part in the baptism of Harrison Richard Chybowski. In holy baptism we are named a beloved child of God and nothing can change that.

Over a lifetime our vocation may change, but nothing can change the fact that each of us is beloved.

Lutherans love to talk about vocation. The decision to be a teacher, a salesperson, a parent, or computer programmer is certainly one large vocational question most of us face at some point in our lives.

Yet our baptismal vocation is much more than our career—though it certainly includes that. We can get stuck when we think that we have one calling for our whole lives. But perhaps our vocation—or call is—to become the unique person that God has created us to be—at each stage of our lives. The call of an infant differs from that of an adolescent, a college student, a parent with a newborn, a person in retirement, or someone living with Alzheimer's.

We learn one from another by telling our life stories. We learn about ourselves and our unique vocation by listening to the ponderings of our hearts. In other words, we are not called to live someone's else's life—only our own.

Our lives continue to change over time and so do our callings. SSM continues to be a community where we can reflect on our baptismal vocation, tell our stories, and encourage one another to be faithful in whatever unfolds for us, for our loved ones, for our communities, and for the world.

*to be called beloved*

*is to be called by God*

*to be called by the shining moments*

*to be called deep within deep ...*

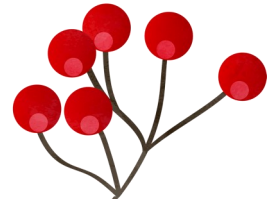
*to be called beloved*

*is the marvelous yes to God's what if*

*the radical shifting of growth*

*mundane agency of active faith* (From a poem "To Be Called Beloved" by Emilie M. Townes.)

Peace, Pastor Brian





# WELCOME HARRISON RICHARD

Newly baptized  
Member of SSM  
Pictured with parents  
Dana and Preston Chybowski  
And big brother Grayson  
Baptized on January 12th



## Loose Ends Lunch

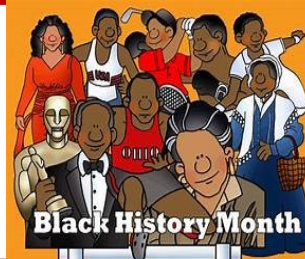


The February Loose Ends Lunch will be held on February 12th at noon at Benny's Café. Benny's is located at 5354 S 28th Street.

Please let Karen Hoffman know if you would like to attend so that reservations can be made.



## February is



## Human Concerns

**Beginning in February the church account name for Food Pantries will be changing to Food Ministries.** The reason for this change is that St. Stephen the Martyr occasionally supports ministries such as Divine Intervention or Unity's Wednesday food program that are not food pantries. We also send money to the Mbaaseny Parish on occasion to help people in need of food. Renaming this account will encompass food pantries as well as ministries that provide meals to our brothers and sisters in need. Please feel free to contact Shelly Rosenstock or another member of the Human Concerns committee if you have any questions. And, thank you for your *overwhelming* generosity.



We will be collecting non-perishable, non-expired food items for the Bay View Community Center's food pantry during the month of February. Monetary donations of any amount also help when the food pantry needs to purchase items. Checks can be made payable to *St. Stephen the Martyr* and placed in the offering. Be sure to indicate that your donation is for *Food Ministries*. Thank you!

## Thrivent Choice Dollars

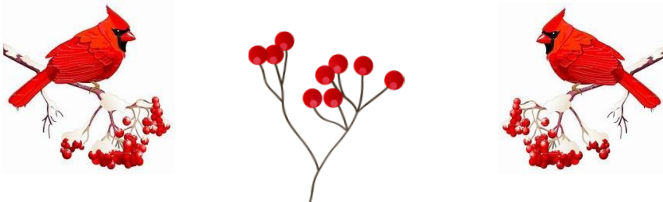
A big thank you to those of you who have forwarded your Choice Dollars during 2024. If you still have 2024 dollars that have not been designated, you have until March 31, 2025. At this time you may want to designate any Choice Dollars that you have to SSM, your community, or especially to the Lutheran Disaster Response because of the California Wildfires. You can direct your Choice Dollars on the internet or by calling 1-800-847-4836. Please be reminded that it is not necessary to wait until the end of the year to donate your Choice Dollars to SSM or other charities. These dollars can be donated throughout the year as they are earned.



# News from Meru

The Diocese of Meru regularly moves their pastors to new assignments after the first of the year. Our partner, Pastor Aminiel Nnko shared with me that he has been assigned to the Momela parish near Arusha National Park (possibly closer to his home). Mbaaseny's new pastor is Kaanael Akyoo. I wished Pastor Nnko well and thanked him for his work with our partnership. I look forward to learning more about Pastor Akyoo in the next few months. Our partnership continues!

On Dec. 22 our 3 partner parishes gathered for a prayer service. Included in their prayers were SSM to finish the year safely and to pray for us in 2025 to be a happy year. The choir sang, flags were carried and tree branches waved to show happiness for our good friends at SSM. Pastor Nnko is pictured in the black jacket.



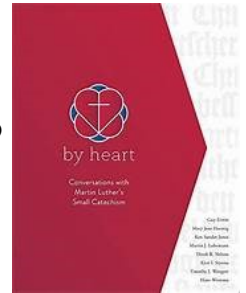
# Sunday Education Hour

Beginning in March, we will dust off Luther's Small Catechism and wrestle with his ever-relevant question "What does this mean?" What does it mean that God is for us? What do the ten commandments mean, or the sacraments, the creed, or the Lord's Prayer? Join Pastor Brian on Sunday mornings 10:45am-11:45am beginning March 2 for "By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism". This is for anyone—and I mean anyone—who wants to explore some of the most powerful aspects of Christian faith.

Sundays from March 2 – April 6

10:45-11:45 a.m.

We will be using the resource: "By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism." The church will be ordering some copies. Let the church office know if you would like us to order one for you. You can also purchase on Amazon for \$17.



# Wednesday Bible Studies



Men's and Women's Bible Studies continue on Wednesday mornings.

The Men's Bible Study, led by Kipp Zimmermann, meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 9:30am.

They are currently studying the Book of Acts and will continue through the month of June.

The Women's Bible Study, led by Bonnie Zimmermann, meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 10:15am. They are currently studying Paul's Letter to the Romans and will also continue through the month of June.

Both studies are both in person in the Fellowship Hall and streamed on Zoom. If you are interested let either Bonnie, Kipp or the office know so that you can receive the invitation emails, which are sent prior to each session and include the Zoom link.

# Stewardship

I Love to tell the Story; will be my theme in Glory;  
To Tell the old old story of Jesus and his love.

My oldest remembrance of this hymn was back in my Sunday school days. I can still picture the setting and my teacher and the Sunday School Superintendent who always led the opening. You can tell that it still rings a bell among people because they sing it with gusto. Yet the piece that we will be focusing on this year in our stewardship conversations is the story itself. We've already begun with the Advent remembrance of God's promises to the prophets and to Mary. We visited the shepherds watching over their flocks by night and the journey of the Wisemen from the east guided by the star. This is a story of Gods multiple epiphanies sent to the people who answered by following.

These stories of revelation have called God's people to follow and to gather throughout the many generations. The question is: What revelation has called you to follow the star to find the Lord Jesus? Something opened you and led you to the place in your faith and life today. This is the gift that God has given each of us that has guided us through our lives. This is the gift that keeps us coming back time and again to the holy ground upon which we find our strength and hope in daily living.

I invite you this year to take the time and find the roots of your call to faith. It is there that we will begin this stewardship journey this year.

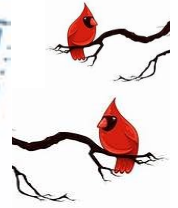
God bless,

Kipp W Zimmermann, Stewardship



# February

**2025**



<b>Presentation of Our Lord</b>		
	<b>9:00am</b>	Rummage Sale Planning Meeting
<b>Saturday, 2/1</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	Worship
<b>Sunday, 2/2</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Worship
		Sunday School
<b>Tuesday, 2/4</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	Mega Meeting
<b>Wednesday, 2/5</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Men's Bible Study
	<b>5:45pm</b>	Handbell Rehearsal
	<b>7:00pm</b>	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thursday, 2/6</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>	Quilting-Cut & Sew - until 3:00pm
	<b>6:30pm</b>	Confirmation Class
<b>5th Weekend after Epiphany</b>		
<b>Saturday, 2/8</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	Worship
<b>Sunday, 2/9</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Worship
		Sunday School
	<b>10:45am</b>	Coffee Hour
<b>Tuesday, 2/11</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	Council Meeting
<b>Wednesday, 2/12</b>	<b>10:15am</b>	Women's Bible Study
	<b>12 noon</b>	Loose Ends Lunch - Benny's Cafe
	<b>5:45pm</b>	Handbell Rehearsal
	<b>7:00pm</b>	Choir Rehearsal



<b>6th Weekend after Epiphany</b>		
<b>Saturday, 2/15</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	Synod Together in Mission - until 3:00pm
	<b>5:00pm</b>	Worship
<b>Sunday, 2/16</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Worship
		Sunday School
	<b>10:45am</b>	Workshop: Neuroscience for Building Community and Nurturing
<b>Monday, 2/17</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>	Quilting - Layering - until 3:00pm
<b>Wednesday, 2/19</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Men's Bible Study
	<b>5:45pm</b>	Handbell Rehearsal
	<b>7:00pm</b>	Choir Rehearsal
<b>7th Weekend after Epiphany</b>		
<b>Saturday, 2/22</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>	Worship
<b>Sunday, 2/23</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Worship
		Sunday School
	<b>10:45am</b>	Coffee Hour
<b>Tuesday, 2/25</b>	<b>5:30pm</b>	Greendale PAGE Black History Event
<b>Wednesday, 2/26</b>	<b>10:15am</b>	Women's Bible Study
	<b>5:45pm</b>	Handbell Rehearsal
	<b>7:00pm</b>	Choir Rehearsal

## **Save the Date**

Save the dates! We will be holding our **SSM church rummage on Saturday April 4, 2025**. A planning meeting for this event will take place at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday February 1st at church. All are welcome to attend to share their ideas. We will discuss logistics, promoting the event, what to do with the funds raised, and anything else that comes to mind. Coffee and kringle will be served. Hope to see you there!

# February Birthdays



Kate Stockland	01	Tracy Covert	16
Carol Jackett	03	Greg Lentz	16
Dawn Agee	03	Isabelle Barry	17
Tasha Kopplin	03	Nancy Mineau	18
Joan Sontvedt	04	Rebecca Kreiter	18
Julie Herman	04	Madeline Miller	21
Nicole Tanke	04	Richard Weeden	23
Carol Manning	06	Sandy Wesolowski	23
Norah Hooper	06	Bob Lieske	24
Julia Mayer	07	Mary Ann Jacobsen	24
Tessa Hryniewicki	08	Hannah Lentz	27
Alden Julseth	09	Kaitlyn Burns	28
Romario Ortega	10	Cassandra Winter	28
Andrea Matusiak	11	Pam Maschke	29
Felix Reinholz	15	Pam Lange	29

**February 2nd**



**February 14th**

**February 17th**





## RIDGEVIEW COACHING

Workshop: Neuroscience for Building Community and Nurturing Relationships

**Date: February 16 at 10:45am**

Join Pastor Tom Smith for an introductory neuroscience workshop. Discover empowering practical, science-backed insights to enhance communication, understanding, and empathy within your community/relationships. Depart with tools for nurturing and deepening connections.

Tom believes that:

Understanding basic neuroscience principles can help foster Christ-centered communities

Christ-centered communities have the power to transform lives

Lives transformed by a Christ-centered community have the power to transform the world for the better in Christ's name

### **Pastor Smith's Bio**

Rev. Tom Smith is an ordained pastor rostered in the Greater Milwaukee Synod. He is an International Coaching Federation certified coach for the ELCA, Companions in Ministry, Vibrant Faith Ministries and Brain By Design. Tom draws from his journey of overcoming anxiety and self-doubt in corporate and ministerial settings to inspire others to tap into their inner potential. In 2022, he founded Ridgeview Coaching LLC. There, Tom blends neuroscience with his steadfast Christian faith to foster client transformation as they pursue goals worthy of their lives. Through his holistic coaching approach, Tom weaves cutting-edge scientific insights with personal anecdotes, offering a wellspring of wisdom for those navigating personal growth and career advancement.

# SSM Website



[www.ssmelca.org](http://www.ssmelca.org)

St. Stephen the Martyr has a very informative website which is well designed and offers a lot of information. You can check out the calendar of events, pull up the bulletin for worship that is streamed on zoom and find out about our various ministries. You can access it by pointing your smart phone camera on the QR code to the left or by typing [www.ssmelca.org](http://www.ssmelca.org) into your web browser - try it you will be amazed.



## QR Codes & How To for VANCO Mobile

- 1 -Enter the church's name **St Stephen the Martyr E.L.C.A.** (note that **there is no period after "St"**). Click search, then select our church.
- 2 -Select your fund, donation frequency, then select payment method. and enter your credit card, debit card or bank account information. You can save this payment method for future donations.
- 3 -You can choose to cover the donation processing fees by adding a small amount on top of your gift. Click the button to opt in.
- 5 -Review and complete your gift by clicking Submit.



*For google*



*For iPhone*



# Community Prayer Service For Peace and Unity

January 19th



# Council Minutes - Dec. 10

Present: Denise Sanders, Lorin Schuchardt, John Muroi, Sandy Wesolowski, Kristy Knipple, Kipp Zimmermann, Eric Sanders, Jane Miller, Keri Whitmore, Pastor Brian Hooper, Shelly Rosenstock, Alex Dollar, Carol Jackett

The meeting was called to order by Denise Sanders at 6:35 pm. Alex shared a devotion

**November Meeting Minutes Review** The November Meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as amended.

**Financial Reports** The monthly Financial Reports were presented and approved. Jane reported that as of November we are still under budget by \$5,000. That should improve with December donations and year end special donations. John Muroi reported that there were no unusual or unexpected expenses in November. We continue to have sufficient funds to cover anticipated expenses. This month we began receiving our annual increased cell tower land lease payment. Our Old National CD will be maturing in December. The CD included Mission Endowment Fund and money for future operating expenses.

**Pastor Brian's Report** The Christmas Caroling at Harbor Village was done on Dec. 5th and was well received. New members Mara Dean, Pam Lange, Richard and Beverly Weeden were welcomed on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Attended Greater Milwaukee Conference gathering on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Attended Clergy of Greens meeting that discussed having a prayer service for Peace and Unity on Sunday, 1/19. Saint Stephen the Martyr was offered as a host. Good ideas were generated at "Leading Well Storytelling" event. Thought is to create a storytelling event on wilderness stories. A 60-year celebration idea - Have people respond to "SSM matters to me because....". This could be 2 – 3 minutes for temple talks, newsletter or Lent series. Congregation members could be interviewed and highlight their story in church publications.

## **Current Action Items:**

**Building Status Update:** Jim Hennessy (Maintenance) attended the meeting to discuss issues. Generally, the building is in good shape. But there are some concerns that need to be addressed. Boilers - There are 3 boilers but one is in bad shape and needs to eventually be replaced. The other two are good for now. The quote for replacing the one boiler is \$15,000. The consensus of the Council is we should look at replacing the one boiler soon. Retaining Wall - The retaining wall by the back door leading to the Prayer Garden is buckling and needs to be replaced or torn down. After looking at the wall the Council agreed it needs to be addressed. The water fountain downstairs is not needed and will be turned off.

# Council Minutes Continued

Sabbatical Policy Reviewed: The last two sections of the Sabbatical Leave Policy on “Church Council Responsibilities” and “Pastoral Covenant” were reviewed. After minor changes to those sections and formatting the policy is ready to be presented to the congregation at the January Congregation Meeting.

Annual Congregation Meeting:

Agenda - Sunday, January 26, 2025 Regular agenda items. Treasurer Election. Sabbatical Leave Policy. Budget 2025. Reconciling in Christ.

Budget Discussion: Eric presented budget information for 2024 and projections for 2025. During the next Council Meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup> final numbers for 2024 and projections for 2025 will be available for review.

By the next Council Meeting Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> Committee Chairpersons should have as firm a number as possible for their 2025 needs.

**Committee Reports:**

Music and Worship – preparing for the Christmas season activities

Christian Education – Sunday School children are preparing for the concert during the Christmas service on Sunday, Dec 22.

Evangelism – continuing to look at mailers and other ways to promote SSM.

Stewardship –still compiling all the pledge cards for 2025. Overall pledges appear to be up now with more to be added.

Fellowship – Continuing to do the usual activities – coffee hour, etc. Planning events for 2025 including a rummage sale.

Finance – Reviewing the 2024 year-end numbers and planning for the 2025 budgets.

Youth and Family – Pajama Party planned for Dec. 15, 2024, with pizza and a movie.

Human Concerns – Needs in the community remain great especially for food pantries. Sunday school kids worked on gift card by adding notes.

**Adjournment and Closing Prayer** Pastor Brian led in a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00

**Next Council Meeting is Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.**

NOTE: The Council Meeting in February will be part of the retreat on Saturday, February 8, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted: Carol Jackett Secretary



## OFFICE HOURS

9:00-2:00 Mon - Th

9:00-12:00 Fri

## SSM STAFF

Brian Hooper, Pastor

[pastorbrianhooper@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbrianhooper@gmail.com)

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)

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## St Stephen the Martyr ELCA

6101 S. 51st Street

Greendale WI 53129

(414) 421-3543

## FEBRUARY 2025



*Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others*