



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

St. Mary's Lutheran Church
2001 80th Street ~ Kenosha, Wisconsin 53143

Founded 1874 ~ Current Location 1961

Check These Out!

- Seasonal Events.....Page 5
- Children & Youth Events & PhotosPages 6/7
- 2024 Giving Envelopes.....Page 11

THE SEASON OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

St. Mary's Lutheran Church has many ways for you and your favorite people to prepare for the birth of Jesus and the holy time of Christmas.

"All Creation Sings" Setting 12 will be the liturgy for Advent & Christmas starting with Advent 1 worship on **SAT., DEC. 2ND AT 5:00PM**. Also on Advent Sundays at 9:00am, St. Mary's will have the **Lighting of the Advent Wreath** at both services.

"Surviving the Holidays" a GriefShare event is held in St. Mary's chapel lounge on **SAT., DEC. 2ND** with Pastor Debbie & Nurse Sue.

JUBILATE! HANDBELL CHOIR will share a very special **PRELUDE for Advent** on **SUN, DEC. 3RD** promptly at **8:45am**. This is a Jubilate! performance until February, 2024!

Also on **SUN, DEC. 3RD —The Angel Tree—DEADLINE TO DROP OFF GIFTS & Remember your angel tags!** This is SMLC's Church in Society's gift giving ministry for children of incarcerated peoples.

PLUS—SUN, DEC. 3RD starts the Advent Book Study **"Names for the Messiah"** in our chapel lounge. Must have purchased the book!

WED. DEC. 6TH—DEADLINE for Christmas Memorials to ELCA Outreach AND Poinsettia Sales!

Breaking the Chains Ministry—Gift Bag Assembly to be held on **Thurs. 12/7**—another way **CHURCH IN SOCIETY** ministers to our neighbors in our community.

On **FRIDAY, DEC. 8TH**—at Lord of Life Lutheran Church—Washington Rd. the Youth Groups will host a "Drop & Shop" Event—see pg. 5 for QR code.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH will be an Advent 2 service with musical selections by our **Contemporary Worship Team!** Come & Sing with them and our Youth!

Also on **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH - A NIGHT OF WORSHIP** 5:00pm is Soup Supper with 6:00pm Worship. See Pg. 5 for location.

THE FRIENDLY CENTER will have a special December gathering at **The Fireside Restaurant** on 30th Ave. on **WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13TH** at 11:00am. RSVPs required.

"LOVE CAME DOWN" the Sunday School children's Christmas program at worship, **Sunday December 17th at 9:00am**. Please join the kids share the greatest story every told !

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18TH—FISH FUSION CHRISTMAS PARTY in the Youth Room!

Blue Christmas Worship Service—Our ELCA Churches share a special service for all who grieve during this holiday season. **Tues. December 19th at 6:30pm** (see pg. 5).

And, finally—We welcome the birth of our Savior as we worship together **Christmas Eve Services at 5:00pm & 8:00pm**. Silent Night and Children welcome at both. **Christmas Day worship at 9:00am**.

The mission of St. Mary's Lutheran Church is to be a fellowship of believers, called by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit, to bear witness to Jesus Christ in the community and in the world. We equip ourselves for our mission by: Prayer, Worship, Education. Enabling us to witness through: Evangelism, Service, Stewardship.

WE ARE

GOD'S PEOPLE

FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST

GIFTED BY THE SPIRIT

GO PRAY

GO LOVE

GO SERVE

THANKS BE TO GOD!



WORSHIP WITH US THIS
CHRISTMAS SEASON

Saturday, Dec. 23—5pm Advent 4
Sunday, Dec. 24: No AM service
Christmas Eve Services:

5 & 8pm

Monday, Dec. 25:

Christmas Morning 9am

Holy Communion & Children
welcome at all Advent & Christmas
services!



Interim Pastor, Pastor Kathy Brown

Grace and peace to you!

December, 2023

As we begin December, we enter the season of Advent, a time of waiting and preparation for Christmas, Christ's coming, the Incarnation. We often fling ourselves full force and full speed ahead into the preparation for Christmas. We have our shopping lists and our "to do" lists in hand. Raking fall leaves gives way to putting up lights and decorations. Trees go up. Cookies get baked. Guest rooms are made ready for visitors. Preparation becomes a major focus. But, for what or whom are we really preparing? For whom or what do we wait?

Christmas is about the Incarnation, God taking on flesh, God's child becoming one of us as human. Christmas is about the love of God being poured out for the sake of all creation with the birth of a baby in Bethlehem. If we think about that night, how prepared were Mary and Joseph? They didn't have a place to stay when they arrived and took shelter in an animal stall. They didn't have a midwife on call to deliver their baby. They had left the receiving blankets, child safety seat, and stroller back in Nazareth. But guess what. That baby came anyway. They had been waiting, to be sure, but weren't quite prepared. Yet, that didn't thwart God's plan.

We might wonder if our waiting might be overshadowed by our preparing. Preparation keeps us busy and can be distracting, but if we think about the places or situations in which we wait – a doctor's office, the DMV, the airport – there isn't much for us to do but read, or think, or contemplate, maybe listen to music. Waiting slows us down so that all those more thoughtful pursuits take priority and perhaps give us more time to focus on what is at the heart of things.

During this Advent time, we would benefit by intentionally building some waiting time into our busy schedules – time to slow down and think about the reason for all of our preparation. Is it just for the celebratory time with family and friends at Christmas. Is it all about shopping and gifts? Is it all about having our houses in good order and decorated to a T? Or is it about Jesus, the Incarnation, God taking on flesh, God's love come down to and for all humanity?

After all is said and done, despite all the trappings of the seasons that are part of our preparation, Christ has and will come. Let's take time to wait and truly prepare for his coming into our hearts, into our lives, into our community. May we all enjoy a thoughtful, joyful, loving and blessed Advent and Christmas season.

*Peace in Christ,
Pastor Kathy*

CHURCH COUNCIL

Greetings, St. Mary's Community,

It is hard to believe we are already in the month of December; this means the season of Advent is here. Advent is a time for waiting and preparing for the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The four weeks of Advent allow us to really focus our attention on Love, Peace, Joy and Hope.

We as a St. Mary's Lutheran Church community have been doing a lot of **preparing** over the last year and half. We prepared an updated Vision statement which allowed us to prepare the Mission Site Profile. Now we are **waiting** for the calling of our next pastor. Waiting is never easy as we want things to happen in our own timing and according to our plans. In this case, we need to be patient and put the process in God's hands. Please keep the Call Committee and the candidates in your prayers as the interviewing process begins.

What an exciting time in the lives of St. Mary's Lutheran Church.

*Love, Peace, Joy and Hope to all
during the Christmas season!
Go Pray, Go Love, Go Serve*

Kath Richter, Council President



Call Committee Update

It has been three months since the Call Committee was put in place, and we are now into the holiday season. The committee continues to hold a standing meeting every two weeks, in addition to interviewing candidates.

We have just finished up interviewing 4 candidates put forth by the Greater Milwaukee Synod, and will be meeting the first Monday in December to make a decision if we want any of the candidates to be put through for a second round of interviews, or will we be asking to have additional candidates sent to us by the synod. We also continue to ask that if you happen to know anyone that might be interested, or know anyone that might know someone that could be interested to please send them our way. We won't settle on mediocre, we want as close of a match as possible based on our MSP. We know that 100% match is asking for a miracle, but we don't want to short ourselves on very important attributes that we are looking for.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we discern what is right for the future of St. Mary's.

SMLC Call Committee

*Leslie Sandahl, Chairperson
Steve Hartfield, Secretary
Keith Richter, Council President
Lisa Zanin, Council Liaison
Mindy Eltoft & Michelle Fonk
Neil Guttormsen & Carol Schroeder*

St. Mary's *The Friendly Center* is a senior ministry that has been around for a very long time. *Here are some Facts about The Friendly Center!*

- ♦ The Friendly Center meets once a month on Wednesday during the school year.
- ♦ The Friendly Center gathers for a devotion and meal over the lunch hour from 11:00 am until about 1:00 pm.
- ♦ The Friendly Center also provides an informative or entertaining program during each gathering.

Calling All Volunteers!

If you are an energetic, mobile person with a passion for senior citizens, we need you! We are looking for consistent volunteers to support the ministry of The Friendly Center in a variety of ways.

Volunteer Opportunities might include:

- ♦ *set up crew*
- ♦ *clean up crew*
- ♦ *food prep and cooking*
- ♦ *plating food*
- ♦ *serving food*
- ♦ *making phone calls*
- ♦ *creating and sending the newsletter to name only a few!*

Call Lisa Zanin for more information or to sign up!
lzanin1953@gmail.com & 909-1181

Stewardship of The Friendly Center

As part of our stewardship the members of The Friendly Center provide a donation to a local charity each month. In November of this year, non-perishable food items were collected. These items were then donated to the **Veteran's Marketplace** which is located at the **Veteran's Village of Racine**. A big "Thank you" to the members of The Friendly Center for remembering our veterans and supporting those in need!

Senior Adult
Ministry

The Friendly Center

KENOSHA NEWS STAFF

The holidays are a time for giving.

As we have done in previous years, the Kenosha News has requested "wish lists" from local agencies that support our community so our readers will have an opportunity to extend their gift giving to include these fine organizations.

The needs are great, and many of the organizations are seeking specific items.

Boys & Girls Club of Kenosha

1330 52nd St., Kenosha
phone 262-653-7302

- Sensory table
- Tie dye supplies (including white t-shirts in youth sizes)
- Storage bins and toy boxes
- Headphones (no earbuds)
- Snow pants and boots
- Playdoh and accessories
- Pencils and pens
- Coloring supplies (markers, colored pencils, crayons, oil pastels)
- Acrylic paints and watercolors
- Construction paper and cardstock
- White paper
- Hobby Lobby gift cards
- Walmart gift cards
- Amazon gift cards
- Rugs (new or gently used)

★★★★

ELCA Outreach Center

6218 26th Ave., Kenosha;
phone 262-652-5545

- Diapers (especially size 5 & 6)
- Baby wipes
 - Feminine hygiene products
 - Warm hats, gloves, mittens
 - Copier paper
- Personal Care Items
 - Coffee, Sugar, Creamer
 - Coffee cups
- Prayers for all those who are homeless and hungry

★★★★

Habitat for Humanity of Kenosha

6203 28th Ave., Kenosha;
phone 262-925-0360

Construction tools and materials:

- Foldable ladders
- Mobile scaffolding for 8-foot ceilings
 - Extension cords; 12 gauge
 - 7 1/4 circular saw blades
 - Misc. Saw-zall blades
 - Heavy duty, XL, construction tarps

- (4) Construction slap staplers
- (4) Single basement utility tubs
- (1) 80 lb flooring roller
- (8) Utility storage bins (black with yellow lid)
- Painting supplies: rollers, brushes, pans, drop cloths, etc.
- Safety equipment: gloves, safety glasses, etc.

Common office supplies:

- Paper clips, staples, printer paper, etc.
- Cleaning supplies & paper towels

Volunteer Recognition Items:

- Prepackaged, shelf-stable snacks (granola bars, nuts, chips, pretzels)
- Cases of bottled water
- Bottled Gatorade or drink packets
- (2) Coolers for build sites and special events

Other items:

- Menards Gift Cards or unused Menards rebates (to purchase building materials/supplies)
- Lowe's Gift Cards (to purchase building materials/supplies)
- Monetary donations are always appreciated

★★★★

Hope Council

6103 39th Ave., Kenosha;
phone 262-658-8166

Youth Programs (ages 0-16)

- Board games
- Puzzles
- Barbies/dolls
- Toy cars/trucks
- Play kitchen food/dishes/pots & pans
- Lite-Brite + refills
- Construction paper
- Coloring Books
- Crayons
- Markers
- Glue sticks
- All art supplies
- Mini play dough cups
- Pocket folders
- 5x7 rug (kids pattern/colors)
- AA or AAA batteries

Teen Programs (ages 13-17)

- Fast food gift cards (\$5 or \$10)
- Amazon/Target/Walmart gift cards (\$5 or \$10)
- Motivational/fun stickers
- Individually wrapped snacks (chips, granola bars, trail mix)
- Small Gatorade drink bottles

Adult Support Groups

- Book-Baffled By Addiction? (Dr. Ed Hughes)
- NA Basic Text
- AA Big Book

Building/maintenance/office

- Postage stamps
- Disinfecting wipes
- Isopropyl Alcohol (any size including gallon)
- Dustbuster-style handheld vacuum
- #10 envelopes (non-window or window)
- Copy paper
 - 3-part receipt books
 - Bottled water
 - Paper Towel (multi-fold or rolls)
 - Toilet Paper
 - Lopper/hedge/pruning tools

But what helps most of all are monetary donations. So while you're shopping for specific items, don't forget that a check or gift card can go a long way to helping these organizations.

So, if you have the means, open your heart and your wallet to make their holidays a little brighter.

If you intend to drop off your donations, call first for hours.

- Combination lock boxes for medications
- USB drives and recordable CDs for loading music
- Jingle Sticks
- Small-frame drums
- Small bottles of lotion
- Dishwasher-safe covered cups/light-weight with lids for Hospice House patients

★★★★

KAFASI

7730 Sheridan Road, Kenosha;
phone 262-764-7238

Volunteers

- Books about diversity, equity and inclusion
- Kwik Trip gift cards for volunteer incentives
- Grocery store gift cards for incentives
- New toys, unwrapped, for our Family Service Christmas party
- Monetary Donations

Items for our Wellness Room

- Stress Balls
- Books on Wellness
- Plants
- Puzzles
- Heated Eye Massager for Stress
- Neck Massager

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Kenosha Achievement Center

1218 79th St., Kenosha;
phone 262-658-9500

- \$10 gift cards for local restaurants and retail stores for use in holiday baskets for adults with disabilities
- New board books appropriate for toddlers
- Acrylic paint sets for adults
- 10x14 canvases
- Craft paint brush sets
- Foam paint brush sets
- 200-piece puzzles for adults
- Oven bake or air dry clay
- 8-ounce wide mouth mason jars with lids

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Safe Families for Children

3626 Hwy 31, Racine;
phone 262-221-8804

- \$100 grocery cards (Walmart, Pick 'n Save, Piggly Wiggly, please no Woodman's as that is too far away)
- \$30 Gas Cards (again, no Woodman's)
- \$100 gift cards (to buy Christmas gifts at Walmart, Amazon, or Target)

★★★★

Sharing Center Inc.

25700 Wilmot Road, Trevor;
phone 262-298-5535

- Fresh yams and potatoes
- Peanut butter & Jelly
- Soups and Stews
- Flour & Sugar
- Pasta
- Hot Cereal
- Cinnamon Powder
- Cold medicine
- Chapstick
- Warm weather-proof gloves for adults and children
- 2X-5X men's and women's clothing
- Children's pajamas 5T-22 plus and adult sleep pants in all sizes
- Prayers of peace for our participants, our community, and the world

Society's Assets

5455 Sheridan Road, Suite 101, Kenosha;
phone 262-657-3999

- Laundry Detergent
- Fabric Softener Sheets
- Laundry Baskets
- Gift Cards for Groceries
- Gift Cards for Gas
- Household Paper Products (Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Facial Tissues)
- Personal Hygiene Products (Shampoo, Bath Soap, Toothpaste)
- Bath Items (Shower Curtain, Large and Small Towels)

★★★★

United Way of Kenosha County, Inc.

5500 6th Ave., Suite 210, Kenosha;
phone 262-671-2207

- White paper—letter size 8.5x11
- Sticky notes 3"x3" and larger
- Wide and large rubber bands
- Pens—black, blue, red ink
- Jumbo paper clips
- Binders—any size
- Staplers
- Staples
- Disinfecting wipes
- Napkins
- Variety of snacks - mini packs of crackers, chips, cookies, etc.
- Stickers, Sticker Sheets
- K-Cup pods
- Legal Pads
- New or Gently Used Children's Books (K-3)
- Composition Notebooks
- Misc. School Supplies
- Fidget Toys

★★★★

Wagner Family Fire Fund

PO Box 73, Salem;

phone 262-843-4685

- Monetary donations to be put toward the purchase of clothing gift cards
- \$35 - \$40 gift cards to fast food restaurants throughout Kenosha County

★★★★

Walkin' in My Shoes**Bunker Coffee House for Vets**

2211 50th St., Kenosha;
phone 262-577-5218

- Any Ocean Spray 5 pack/10 fl oz size bottles of:
 - Cranberry Juice, Cran-Grape, Cran-Apple, Cran-Mango, Cran-Tropical
 - Mott's 100% Original Apple Juice
 - Minute Maid or Tropicana - 8 fl oz each
 - Minute Maid Orange Juice Drinks - 10 fl oz each
 - V8 Original 100% Vegetable Juice - 5.5 fl oz or 11.5 fl oz each
 - Bottled Water - 8 oz each
 - Folgers Black Silk Roast Coffee - Dark Roast
 - Coffee Mate 22 oz size Original Powdered Creamer, French Vanilla, and/or Hazelnut
 - Laundry detergent
 - Downy Wrinkle Fresh Fabric Softeners or Downy Dry sheets
 - Clorox Bleach
 - Clorox All Purpose Cleaner with Bleach Spray Bottle
 - Clorox Toilet Wand Disinfecting Refills



HOLIDAY DROP AND SHOP!

Drop your child off for a fun evening of activities, games, arts and crafts and more! Do some Holiday shopping or just enjoy and adult evening out!

Pizza, snacks and juice will be included!

Friday, December 8th

4pm-8pm

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

5601 Washington Rd, Kenosha, WI 53144

Ages 3-12

Cost : Freewill donation to our Youth Programs

SIGN UP - Use this link or QR Code

<http://bit.ly/shopanddrop128>



****Do not need to be a member of any church to attend****

Night of Worship

ELCA Outreach Center

Night of Worship

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Soup Supper at 5:00pm

Worship at 6:00pm

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

5601 Washington Rd.

Sponsored by Lord of Life and Spirit Alive! Churches

COME TOGETHER

For a Blue Christmas

December 19

6:30 pm

St. Paul's

8760 37th Ave

Lord of Life

Trinity

St. Mary's

St. Paul's

SMLC YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Sunday School Calendar

December 01: Friday Family Fun Night 5:30-7:30 pm
December 02-03: Lutherdale Overnight Retreat 3rd-5th Grade 10AM-10AM
December 03: Shalom Center 4-6PM
December 10: Practice for Christmas Program until 11AM
December 16: Christmas Program Rehearsal 9-12PM
December 17: Christmas Program 9AM
December 24: Christmas Eve— No Sunday School
December 31: New Year's Eve — No Sunday School

Sunday School music time begins after Kids Connection, the kids return for Communion, and then have instruction until 10:30.

www.facebook.com/smlcsundayschool

Fish/Fusion Calendar

December 03: Cookies N Christ
December 04: FISH and Fusion
December 04: MOD Pizza Fundraiser all day
December 08: Shop and Drop at Lord of Life
December 10: Youth sing at Contemporary Service – 8:45AM
December 11: FISH and Fusion
December 17: Cookies N Christ
December 18: Christmas Party!

FISH 6:00-7:30pm Fusion 7:00-8:30pm

www.facebook.com/smlcyouthed



Michelle Fonk - Children & Youth Education Coordinator 262-770-0523
Kendra Richter - Middle & High School Youth Lead (FISH & Fusion) 262-287-2463
Stephanie Raszkievicz - Children's Ministry Lead (Sunday School) 262-945-7519

} smlcyouthed@gmail.com



Rummage Sale
January 6 & 7 2024

Donation Drop-Off
December 30: 9-12PM
January 1: 4-7PM



**Friday
Family Fun Night!**



KEY CONTACTS—WHO DO YOU CALL?

CHURCH COUNCIL 2023-2024 St. Mary's Church Council meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm. Committee Meeting Day/Times to be reviewed. All are 1+(262) unless otherwise noted. Council liaisons are as follows:

AUDIT

Keith Richter..... 697-2359/948-9020
ktrichter25@gmail.com

CARING

Lana Woller.....697-9908/945-7563
t.woller3@yahoo.com

CHURCH IN SOCIETY

Patricia Mason..... 721-8065
godslittlesinger71@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Stephanie Raszkievicz.....945-7519
stephrz01@yahoo.com

FINANCE

Keith Richter..... 697-2359/948-9020
ktrichter25@gmail.com

THE FRIENDLY CENTER

Lisa Rasmussen-Zanin..... 909-1181
lzanin1953@gmail.com

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Adam Fonk..... 649-6389
adamfonk@gmail.com

NOMINATING

Dana Larsen..... 414-748-0448
dana.larsen.wdc@gmail.com

PERSONNEL

Andy Schroeder.....344-1902
amgeoteach90@yahoo.com

PROPERTY

Christine Johnson.....818-8879
chris.johnson1800@gmail.com

RECONNECTIONS

Hollie DeFranco.....914-0136
holliedefranco@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP

Stephanie Raszkievicz.....945-7519
stephrz01@yahoo.com

WORSHIP MUSIC ARTS

Markie Hylinski.....515-3032
hylinskim@gmail.com

YOUTH

Adam Fonk..... 649-6389
adamfonk@gmail.com

Council Connection for December:
Lisa Zanin. Contact her at
lzanin1953@gmail.com or 909-1181

ST. MARY'S STAFF: phone: 262-658-3555 or
emails @stmaryslutheran.org

Rev. Kathy Brown.....INTERIM PASTOR
ext. 333, (262)799-5791 or pastorkb@
Rev. Debbie Hartfield..... Assoc. Pastor/Pastoral Care
ext. 343, (262)599-5795 or pastordeb@
Nurse SueADVOCATE FAITH AND HEALTH
COMMUNITY PROGRAM/CARE MINISTRY COORDINATOR
Call the office or Fcn@
Beth Kerscher.....ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
ext. 300 or bkerscher@
Sondra Kuro.....BOOKKEEPER
ext. 323 or bookkeeper@
Reception.....info@
Kendra Richter..... Youth Director
kendra.richter13@gmail.com
Deb Black.....ORGAN/PIANO ACCOMPANIST
Laurel Borter.....PIANO
Dr. Richard Sjoerdsma..... ADULT CHOIR DIRECTOR
Madeline Weirick.....JUBILATE! HANDBELL DIRECTOR
Art Kotenko SOUND/VIDEO TECHNICIAN

Church Office Hours:

Mondays/Tuesdays/Thursdays: 9:00am-3:00pm
Wednesdays: Noon—6:00pm
Fridays: 9:00am—Noon
The church office closed on
Monday, December 25th, 2023 &
Monday, January 1, 2024

November 2023			
Worship Attendance			
4th: 28	5th: 101		
11th: 32	12th: 83		
18th: 32	19th: 88		
25th: 30	26th: 61		

A FRESH LOOK AT THE MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT AT ST. MARY'S! DECEMBER, 2023

WORSHIP ON SATURDAYS, 5PM* & SUNDAYS, 9AM

Worship services' orders of worship will be the same, except when we celebrate a Holden Evening Prayer service at 5:00pm Saturdays and a Contemporary* led service at 9:00am Sundays. Worship materials include using the ELW hymnal, printed bulletins, announcement sheets, etc. Printed material available online at our church's website under "uploaded documents".

Holy Communion at the railing or from your seat as needed; on weekends that are Holden/Contemporary (2nd Sunday each month) communion will be by intinction. Gluten-Free or regular wafer, wine or juice offered. Children who haven't received instruction yet, or anyone not receiving communion may come forward for a blessing instead. Simply fold your hands when approaching.

Sharing of Peace during worship will now be up to you: *[the people] you may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you" or similar words. You may consider a gesture without physical touch, perhaps a slight bow, or crossing arms over the chest, as a symbol of an embrace.*

Offering: Passing the Plate Our ushers will once again enter the sanctuary space and pass the offering plates through the pews. You are welcome to give that way, online or mailing in your checks. **Volunteer ushers needed for each service. Contact church office.**

Worship Greeters: Worship greeters are the first impression of St. Mary's fellowship. No experience necessary and families are welcome to greet! We need greeters for Saturday nights AND Sunday morning. **Volunteer greeters are needed, please contact Margaret Van Boven at 262-694-8281 or mav5804@gmail.com.**

MUSIC GROUPS

Adult Choir~ Rehearsals 7:00pm Wednesday nights, singing monthly on 1st, 3rd & 4th Sundays (5th is applicable). **Contact Dick Sjoerdsma, Deb Black or any AC member to join!**

Contemporary Worship* Team ~ Tuesdays (2x month) 5:45pm; sing monthly 2nd Sunday. **Bjorn Hanson is the contact if you're interested in joining!**

Jubilate! Handbell Choir—Rehearsals 5:30pm Monday nights in the sanctuary space. Jubilate! under the direction of Maddie Weirick again this year, plays in worship on the 1st Sunday of each month AND play for special occasions like Reformation Sunday.

PRAYER BREAKFASTS

Tuesday Morning Women's Prayer Breakfast

All women are welcome to join us at 8:00am at The Hillcrest Restaurant, 6000 75th Street—Kenosha.

Wednesday Morning Men's Prayer Breakfast All men are welcome to join us at 7 a.m. Marina Garden near the entrance 5001 7th Avenue—Kenosha.

WOMEN'S CIRCLES

Miriam ~ 2nd Tuesday @1:00pm

Circle of Friends ~ 3rd Wednesday @1:00pm

Women's Book Club ~ 1st Tuesday @2:00pm

Lydia Circle ~ 2nd Monday @ 12:30pm

St. Mary's Quilters ~ Mondays @ 9:00am

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

All children ages 11 and under are welcome to join us each Sunday morning after Kids' Connection to enjoy Music Time, Lesson Time and Sunday School fun! Registrations encouraged and you can follow us on Facebook [here!](#) Middle School (6pm FISH) & High School (7:00pm Fusion) ages are welcome to join us each Monday night downstairs in the Youth Room! Our staffed leader, Kendra Richter, and her group of awesome leads encourage all teens—no matter if they go here or to another church or at all! Check out the Facebook page [here!](#)

**temporary as leadership will assess and evaluate all worship services throughout the remainder of 2023.*

Stay Connected when unable to join us for worship. You can watch these services online three ways:

- 1) Like our church [Facebook Page](#)
- 2) Watch Live on [YouTube](#) or On Demand (Live videos)
- 3) Watch videos from the [church Website](#) (by Tuesdays)

Treasurer's Report—October 2023

Income Actual	\$48,419.57
Expenses Actual	\$41,828.73
Profit/Loss	+\$6,590.84

Fiscal Year-to-date 23/24

Income Actual	\$168,469.72
Expenses Actual	\$170,444.84
Profit/Loss	-\$1,975.12

**The current Year-to-date percentage of electronic giving to total offerings given is 33%.*

Food on the 1st



A BIG THANK YOU FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DENISE RUSSELL, AT THE GRACE WELCOME CENTER

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the contributions you make each month to the Red Bags Program. The need remains great in the community that the Grace Welcome Center serves. This program sponsored by your church has made a huge impact, much more than you realize. Many individuals and families (well over 200 a week) get food weekly, partly from your donations. Trust me when I say that our guests are grateful to receive their groceries! *Thank you again for your support!*

In early November, the Kenosha Police Department Training Officer Jason Tetrick and Captain James Beller have presented a "Letter of Appreciation" to the St. Mary's Endowment Foundation on behalf of Police Chief Patrick Patton.

The letter reads: *"The Kenosha Police Department and the Kenosha Safety Fund would like to recognize your generosity in donating much-needed funds to purchase equipment for our **R.I.S.E. Training Center**. This facility will make a significant impact on our ability to train Officers and the community. This would not be possible without you, Thank You!"*

The core values of the Kenosha Police Department are: R.I.S.E

- ⇒ **Respect**—Appreciating and being sensitive to difficulty of others and what they may be experiencing through our expressions of kindness and caring.
- ⇒ **Integrity**—Being honest and having strong moral principles that unify us as an undivided team, that continually works towards building public trust.
- ⇒ **Service**—The endless pursuit of selflessness, seeking to exceed the service expectations of our community.
- ⇒ **Excellence** -Displaying humility and internal reflection to ensure that we are constantly improving to provide the highest standard of policing to our community.



Ft: Kay Manderfeld, Cheryl Hayes
Br: Cpt. James Beller, Keith Richter, Neil Guttormsen, John Basler,
Kim Frost, Officer Jason Tetrick



The Worship Music and Arts ministry team (WMA) would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all who participated in the discussion sessions held after services on the weekends of November 11/12 and November 18/19. In addition, a big thank you to those who facilitated, recorded information and gave their valuable time and opinions on worship.

While there were a variety of opinions, the discussions gave everyone that wished to, an opportunity to hear other voices on their thoughts and suggestions for improving our time together in worship. One thing that was abundantly clear, is the love our congregation has for St. Mary's. In the coming weeks, the WMA ministry team will be looking through all the collected information and discerning if any changes are warranted and recommending a motion to the Congregation Council for a vote.

Thank you again for sharing in this important worship discussion.



The Women of St. Mary's Lutheran Church (WELCA)

would like to thank you for your generous contributions.

MERU ORPHANGE

\$1023 was collected for The Meru Orphanage. Many children will benefit from your generosity.

THANKOFFERING

A grand total of \$1130 was collected for the 2023 Thankoffering. This year's recipients are Katie's Fund and Luther's Lunchbox. Each will receive half of the contribution. Katie's Fund is an endowment fund that supports mission and ministry in leadership development and global connections beyond the budget of WELCA. Luther's Lunchbox is a free stop- and -go supplementary meal program managed by the Center of Faith and Spirituality at Carthage College. The quick meals, healthy snacks, and hygiene products are available to the students that need them 7 days a week in the A.F. Siebert Chapel.

2024 GIVING ENVELOPES

For our members who use envelopes for giving, we appreciate your patience and flexibility throughout 2023. The Finance committee has worked to provide a method of providing envelopes to you in a more financially and resource friendly way.

On the weekends of **Dec 9/10** and **Dec 16/17** members who have historically used envelope giving will be able to pick up a large envelope with your name and giving number on it, volunteers will be available to give you the number of envelopes you need for 2024. If you give weekly, we will have a packet of 60 envelopes for you. If you give monthly, we will have a packet of 16 envelopes for you and if you give quarterly, sporadically, or for holidays, we will have a packet of 12 envelopes for you.



SUPPER CLUBS are BACK for 2024
sign up now thru Dec 17, 2023

We're heading into our 15th year for Supper Clubs
All are welcome to join.

Supper Clubs are a great way to get to know our congregation on a more personal and relaxed basis, one meal at a time! You can join either the **HOME** or **RESTAURANT** club. The groups meet as often as they like throughout the year.

The **HOME** supper club takes turns hosting a group of 8 people in their home. The host (everyone takes turns) prepares the table and main course and the other members bring the vegetable/salad, bread/dessert. If you feel that hosting would be too much because you don't have the room or time, then join the **RESTAURANT** group. This supper club of 6 or 7 people selects a restaurant and goes out to eat together. They may choose a pizza place or something fancier; it is up to that group.

You may sign up as a couple, single or two friends. You will be randomly placed with others that you may or may not know. That is the fun of it, getting to know NEW people. If you cannot commit to a year, sign up as a substitute and join either club for a one-time meal. To sign up look for Carole Scotese in fellowship hall in between services on Sundays: Dec 3, Dec 10, or Dec 17. I will be wearing the 'Ask me about Supper Clubs' nametag. It's easy, if we don't connect in church, just email me at m.scotese@aol.com to sign-up. I'll need your name(s), phone/cell number, email and the supper club you prefer. You can call Carole at 262-994-6958 and leave the same info on my phone (no texts please). **NOTE** Emails sometimes go into the spam folder. I will respond right away. If you haven't heard from me, please call instead.

Name / Giving # _____

Date / Occasion _____

Amount _____

The share of my treasure for the work of the Lord at St. Mary's Lutheran Church

The envelopes you will be provided will have the following label for you to fill out your Name and/or Giving Number, the Date or Occasion (example: Lent / Thanksgiving / etc.), and the Amount.

Going forward, you will be able to pick up a new packet of envelopes when you need to replenish your supply. Remember, regular and special giving can also be made using the Tithe.ly application. **If you have any questions about your envelopes or Tithe.ly, please contact the church office or Cari Richter, Financial Secretary 262-853-2359.**

THE SPIRIT


the newsletter of
ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
www.stmaryslutheran.org
December, 2023

What's inside.....

Advent & Christmas Season Happenings.....	Page 1
Message from Pastor & President.....	Page 2
Call Committee/The Friendly Center News	Page 3
Kenosha Area Needs List.....	Page 4
Seasonal Events.....	Page 5
Youth & Sunday School News.....	Pages 6 & 7
Key Contacts.....	Page 8
Opportunities for YOU here.....	Page 9
News You Can Use.....	Pages 10-11

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We are a
RECONCILING in CHRIST
congregation
St. Mary's Lutheran Church
2001 80th Street
Kenosha, WI 53143
RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED

