

August 2025

THE SPIRIT



ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
2001 80TH ST. ~ KENOSHA, WISCONSIN 53143
262*658*3555
FOUNDED 1874 ~ CURRENT LOCATION 1961



Becoming Inclusive—Becoming a congregation that does not build walls, but opens doors to all God's beloved people.



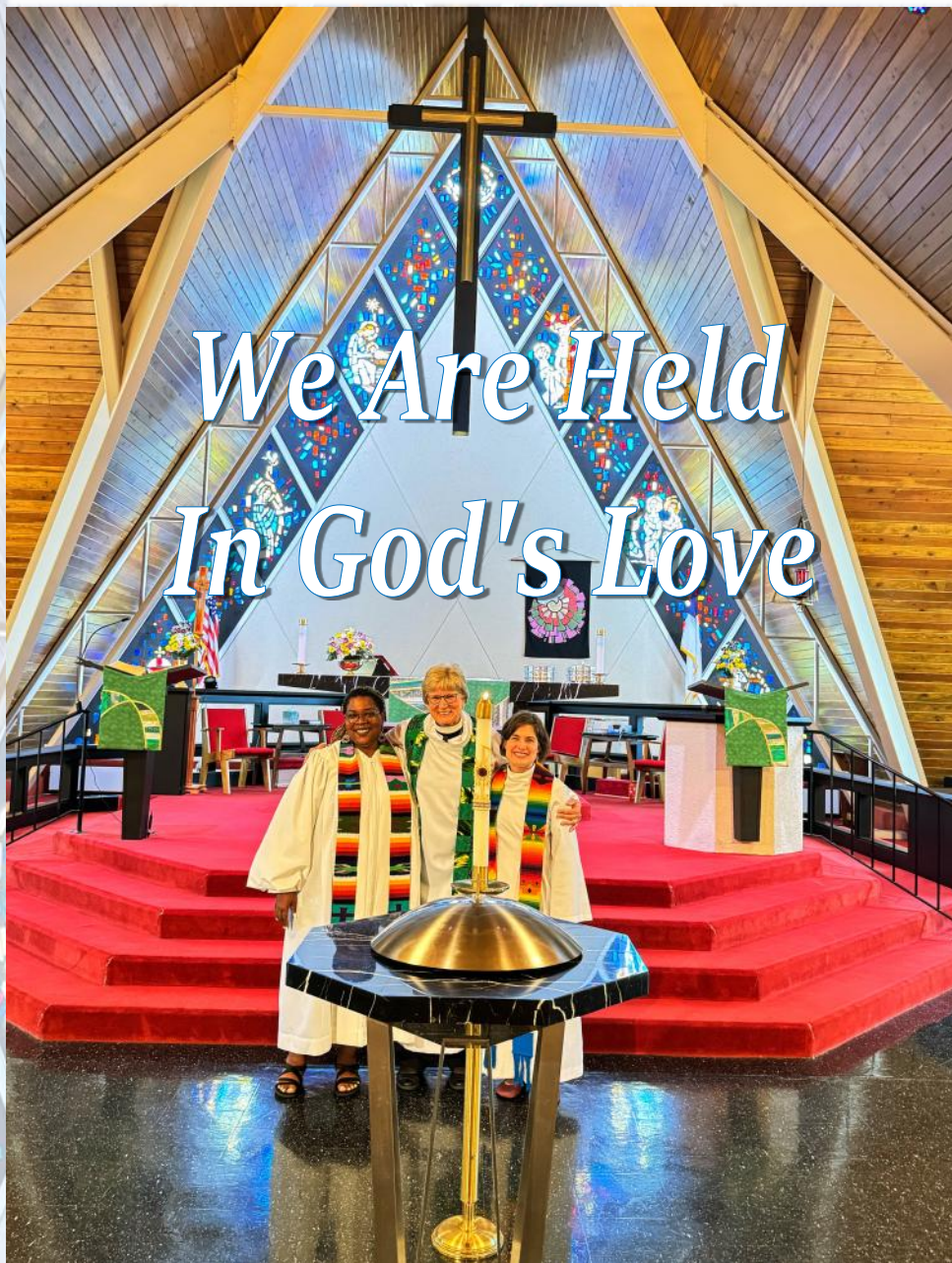
Connecting People—Building small groups for mission, prayer, fellowship, travel, and support.



Growing Disciples—Teaching and experiencing Christian faith for adults and children for a life of transformation.



Practicing Generosity—Giving of our time, talent, and treasure for God's mission in the world.



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!

Sunday, July 20, 2025

Service of Installation for
our pastors!

The Rev. Dr. Jordan
Miller-Stubbendick,
Full-Time Lead Pastor

Rev. Debbie Hartfield,
Part-Time Associate
Pastor

With Rev. Afi Dobbins-
Mays from the Greater
Milwaukee Synod

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

*Come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling, your songs and prayers
against the darkness hurling. To all the world go out and tell the story of
Jesus' glory.*

ELW #665; Rise, Shine, You People! Text by Ronald A. Klug;
Music by Dale Wood



When we sang this hymn last month, I noticed the line I've quoted above, about hurling songs and prayers against the darkness. It really stood out to me, and I thought, "It really does feel like that's what we are doing on some days."

Our world is shifting so quickly. Each one of us navigates changes, both routine and unexpected, in our own lives, here at St. Mary's, in our country and in the wider world. Some of these changes are welcomed and joyful, while others are surprising, sometimes unpleasant, and occasionally a downright heartache. We live in times where technology connects us to people all around the world. We know what is going on thousands of miles away, but sometimes feel increasingly unable to do much to help make the world better.

I find myself wondering if our ancestors in faith felt this same helplessness and despair sometimes. They lived through wars, economic recessions, changes in their families, and many other things outside of their control. They did their best and practiced their faith as they could. It grounded them and allowed them to keep going.

That's what faith does for us. Whether you feel solidly connected to God and our faith community or a bit like you are wandering in the wilderness, one great gift of our faith as Lutheran Christians is that our relationship to God is primarily about God, not about us.

From the very beginning, God chose each human being in great love and complete faithfulness. We don't need to worry about choosing to follow Jesus or getting it all right, because all that we do is in response to God first choosing us.

We can hurl our songs and prayers against the darkness, because we know we are held in the light of God in Jesus Christ.

I am cautious about using the word *darkness* because of the way that, especially in primarily white spaces, darkness has been used as a kind of synonym for that which bad/evil and light has been used as a synonym for that which is good/pure. Throughout history and still too often today, our siblings of color have been subject to racism, including racialized violence, that diminishes their value, dignity and full humanity because of the color of their skin. Darkness is not exclusively bad, while light is not exclusively good. We need both darkness and light, in the natural world and in our metaphors.

That being said, we can take comfort that when our own hearts or the world around us feels dim, we are held in God's love, no matter what, as our ancestors were, and as those who come after us will be. We do our best to live this love out, and also know that we don't keep the world spinning with our efforts.

Hurl your songs and prayers against all that is unsettled, or heartbreaking, or wrong in your life and the wider world. Know that you do so with a great cloud of witnesses—people of faith from all times and places. You are not alone. You are seen and loved and accompanied. What you do—what we do—matters a great deal—and it is also not entirely up to us.

Singing and praying right along with you,

Pastor Jordan

Nurse Sue's in the Office on Tuesdays only. Call 658-3555 for Appointments.

NURSE SUE—ADVOCATE FAITH & HEALTH TEAM—AUGUST 2025

Dear Friends,

Summer is in full swing and all the food gatherings with friends and family are underway. Innovative recipes are being shared, and new foods are sometimes on the list at a party. I recently was introduced to a vegetable that I had never eaten.



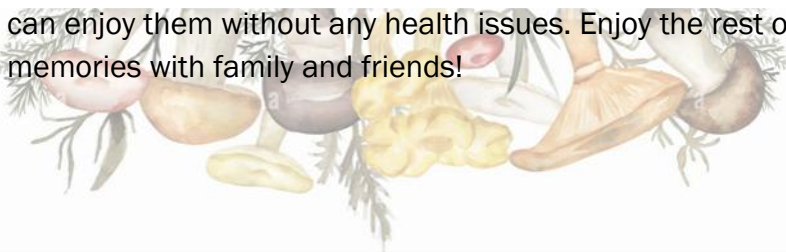
Let's look at this food, shiitake mushrooms, a little closer. These mushrooms sit in the aisle with other familiar mushrooms and can be confused with a portabella mushroom. Shiitakes are a woodland mushroom used commonly in Japanese and Chinese cuisine. It is the second most common edible mushroom in the world; an estimated 10,000 tons are consumed per year. We see them more frequently in our stores because we are now growing them in the USA.

Did you know that these mushrooms pack a big punch with nutrients. Shiitake mushrooms are low-calorie, high fiber source of carbohydrates that are rich in B vitamins, vitamin D, zinc, copper, and selenium. There are health practitioners that believe these mushrooms may promote heart health, reduce prostate cancer risk, help with gingivitis, boost immunity, and improve nutritional status for plant-based eaters due to having the same amino acids as meat.

I assumed you could add these mushrooms raw to a salad but here is the part that surprised me about shiitake mushrooms. Did you know that eating raw or undercooked shiitakes might cause stomach discomfort or a very itchy rash in the shape of narrow strips. The rash, called flagellate dermatitis, is often found on the chest, back, legs, arms and neck. The rash looks like you have been scratched or clawed with fingernails. The rash can typically appear within 24-48 hours after eating the raw mushrooms. The cause of the rash is thought to be from the toxicity of lentinan, a polysaccharide found in the roots of this mushroom. The rash usually goes away on its own within a few days to several weeks. Topical steroids offer relief from the itchiness while the rash is improving. So here is the takeaway:

- ✿ Never eat shiitake mushrooms raw.
- ✿ Cook Shiitakes for at least 5-7 minutes until they are tender and lightly browned.
- ✿ These mushrooms must reach an internal cooking temperature of 266 -293 degrees Fahrenheit. Cooking them neutralizes the lentinan that could cause possible toxicity in the body resulting in a rash. Stick the thermometer in the meaty portion of the mushroom to check the temperature.
- ✿ If the mushrooms are baked in a casserole or fried in a stir fry their internal temperature will get where it needs to be and will get cooked adequately. Check the internet for scrumptious recipes.

Shiitake mushrooms are very delicious and very healthy. Just like raw meat you need to cook them so you can enjoy them without any health issues. Enjoy the rest of your summer with good health and lasting memories with family and friends!



Shalom,

*Nurse Sue R.N., F.C.N.
Aurora Faith and Health Team*



**ST. MARY'S "FOOD ON THE FIRST"
RED BAGS
DROP OFF IS SATURDAY, AUGUST 30TH
& SUNDAY, AUGUST 31ST, 2025**

The "Food on the First" red bag program will continue to be collected for the Shalom Center.

This has been a wildly successful donation campaign sponsored by The SMLC Endowment Foundation, Lydia's Circle, and WELCA.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



Steve Hartfield
**VOLUNTEER
OF THE
YEAR**

Congratulations!



ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications must be postmarked by the 15th of February, May, August or November to be considered in that quarter. St. Mary's Lutheran Church Endowment Foundation applications are due August 15, 2025 for disbursement in September, 2025.

Application information may be found on-line at the St. Mary's website, www.stmaryslutheran.org. Please provide supporting information about the need, intended use, cost/ project breakdown, and supplier for everything included in your request. Applications must be postmarked and mailed by the 15th of February for consideration. Please provide follow-up information about how the funds were used. Funds not used for the specific request must be returned to the Foundation for future disbursements.

**Applications should be mailed to:
St. Mary's Lutheran Church Endowment Foundation
2001 – 80th Street Kenosha, WI 53143**

**St. Mary's Lutheran Church
Endowment Foundation Disbursement
Report**

The mission of St. Mary's Lutheran Church Endowment Foundation is to offer members (as well as friends) of St. Mary's Lutheran Church a haven for gifts and memorials which will provide an ongoing source of income for the encouragement of religious, charitable, educational, and outreach programs. Gifts to the Foundation are held in perpetuity,

generating investment income each year that provides a continuous source of support for worthy causes that fit our mission statement.

The following is a list of grant recipients of St. Mary's Endowment Foundation for the past year (August 1, 2024 through July 31st, 2025)

- * Breaking the Chains Ministry
- * ELCA Outreach Center
- * God's Kitchen
- * Grace Infant Diaper Ministry
- * Grace Welcome Center
- * KAFASI Senior Nutrition Program
- * Kenosha Achievement Center
- * Kenosha Welcome Center
- * Open Wings Learning Community
- * Peace Learning Circles
- * Redeemer Lutheran Church
- * Royal Family Kids Camp
- * Salvation Army
- * Seven Educational Scholarships
- * Shalom Center
- * St. Mary's 150th Anniversary Initiatives
- * St. Mary's Electronic Message Center
- * St. Mary's Good Samaritan Fund
- * St. Mary's High School Youth
- * St. Mary's Middle School Youth
- * St. Mary's Quilters
- * St. Mary's Sunday School
- * The Sharing Center
- * Walkin' In My Shoes

To make a donation to St. Mary's Lutheran Church Endowment Foundation or to request a grant for your organization, www.stmaryslutheran.org. Click on Endowment Foundation



When You Are Sick in Mind, Body, Spirit:

St. Mary's is one of the few church congregations that employs a Parish Nurse/Faith Community Nurse. She has amazing resources, both as a Registered Nurse, and as a Christ-Centered servant. Please call the office and leave a message with how we can call you back. **Do not give any personal, private or symptomatic information to the office.**

Prayer Requests: If you have a prayer request for St. Mary's Prayer Chain, contact:

Sue VanBendegom 652-1770 and FCN Nurse Sue 658-3555.

When You Are Hospitalized:

† Please call the church to notify the staff of your admission.

† Don't assume the hospital will notify the church, even if you have asked them to. Hospitals are very busy places, and some tasks are put off for more urgent needs.

† Please notify the church office when you are scheduled for surgery (in or outpatient).

† If you wish to be included in the Prayers of the People, please contact us.

† We don't mind getting more than one phone call about a parishioner who is hospitalized. Please don't assume that someone else will be notifying us.



YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED TO BAPTIZE—TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS—AND AMONG US, TO PRESIDE AT THE LORD'S SUPPER. AMEN



1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

© 2025 The American National Red Cross | 485801-1 CW

Lord of Life Lutheran Church Blood Drive

5601 Washington Rd
Kenosha

**Thursday, August 14, 2025
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit
RedCrossBlood.org

**Give Aug 1 to 28 for \$15 e gift card & successful
donations get A1C testing. Terms: rcblood.org/Test**



Our produce table will be starting up July 26/27 and continue into October! Please bring any produce fruits ,veggies, spices, etc. you're willing to share. If you see something you need in the cart, please help yourself! There will be a collection box for donations. All money collected will go to the ELCA Outreach Center. Thank you for your support .
Gretchen and Andy



**GET THE TITHE.LY APP
OR SCAN THIS QR CODE
FOR WEEKLY OR ONE-TIME
GIVING. THANK YOU!**

SCAN ME



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 (usually by Tuesdays)

Treasurer's Report ~ June 2025

Income Actual	\$ 40,878.77
Expenses Actual	\$ 51,327.95
Results	(\$ 10,449.18)

Fiscal Year-to-date 24/25

Income Actual	\$ 494,679.97
Expenses Actual	\$ 487,007.32
Results	+\$ 7672.65

The current Year-to-date percentage of electronic giving to total offerings given is 32%.



To my SMLC family:

Over the past months leading to and following the death of my beloved Mary, you more than ever have become for me the embodiment of Ps. 27:13. I offer my deepest thanks for uniting to movingly honor her life, and also for your continuing love, care, support, and empathy expressed in such a wide spectrum of ways, showing me the grace and face of Jesus in your ministry. I count myself immeasurably blessed to be a part of this compassionate Christian community. Dick



Lutheran World Relief

Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits

All are welcome to participate and watch for towels and ribbon ties that will be available for the kits in August.

Items needed:

- One 52 X 26" dark towel
- Two bath-size bars of soap in original wrapping
- One toothbrush in original wrapping: adult size
- One sturdy comb (remove wrapping)
- One metal nail clippers w/optional file attached (remove from any paper it is attached too)

How to Pack Your Personal Care Kit:

1. Fold towel in half.
2. Place the rest of the items in the towel.
3. Fold and roll so nothing falls out.
4. Secure with yarn, ribbon or string

*Please give new items only.

*The kits will be packed for shipping the first week of October.

* LWR is now supplying needed kits and quilts in this country due to the many natural disasters that are occurring. Collection deadline: September 20/21

The Monday morning quilters would like to thank **Ralph Tollas!** Ralph works behind the scenes every week without fail to set up approximately 20 long tables for us, and then takes them all down again after we're gone. These quilts ultimately find homes with people who need them all over the world, and Ralph's contribution to this work is **invaluable!**



Christine Johnson would like to give a huge "THANK

YOU" shout out to everyone who has stepped up and helped out for coffee hours, funerals, fellowship events & celebrations! As they say "*many hands make light work*".

And, in particular, I'd like to thank Len Long & Ruth for all their helps with coffee Kringle mingles. Len is moving to Minnesota to be closer to family on August 16th and we will miss you both very much!



ST. MARY'S

AT



KENOSHA

KINGFISH



BALLGAME

OPPORTUNITIES @ CHURCH ~ AUGUST 2025

SATURDAYS, 4PM & SUNDAYS, 9AM

Our weekend order of worship will be available online under “uploaded bulletins, announcements” each week by Friday afternoon. *USE THEM WHEN YOU’RE WATCHING FROM HOME, OR LIVE-STREAMING OUR SERVICES!*

ASSISTING MINISTERS An assisting minister is a liturgical leader who assists the congregation in worship and alongside the presiding minister throughout the worship service. Assisting ministers proclaim the word of God in prayer and scripture readings, receive offerings, pray for the concerns of the church and the world. They stand at the font helping welcome new Christians and help distribute the bread and wine. Assisting ministers send the congregation into the world for mission.

Singers & Non-Singers welcome!

HOLY COMMUNION at the railing or from your seat as needed; once a month, communion will be by intinction. Gluten-Free/regular wafer, wine/juice offered. Children who haven’t received instruction yet, or anyone may come forward for a blessing instead. Simply fold your hands when approaching.

USHERING All ages, genders & skills welcome! We will be passing the plate.

WORSHIP GREETERS: Our first impression specialists! Families can sign up! Individuals! Buddies! We will have greeters in the summer if you sign up!

MUSIC GROUPS

ADULT CHOIR~ The choir is OFF for the summer. Contact Dick Sjoerdsma if you would like to share your musical offerings in July/August.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP TEAM ~ Tuesdays (2x month) 5:45pm; singing monthly usually on the 2nd Sunday. There will be Contemporary in the Summer months! **Next one is Sunday, August 10th at 9AM!**

JUBILATE! ~ Handbell choir is OFF for the summer. Maddie Weirick has stepped down as director in order to be with her family more, but she’ll be a substitute as needed. We will look forward to what the summer holds for Jubilate! **Nathan Larsen has agreed to direct! Welcome!**

“A CHORD FOR THE LORD” YOUTH CHOIR ~

St. Mary’s YOUTH choir rehearsals are suspended during the summer months! Thank you for sharing your gifts!

CIRCLES & SMALL GROUPS—CHECK WITH YOUR LEADER FOR SUMMER SCHEDULES

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

Miriam ~ 2nd Tuesday @1:00pm

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

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

Lydia Circle ~ Off for the Summer.

MINISTRIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS OFF FOR THE SUMMER~ Joan Oehlberg's email KidMin@stmaryslutheran.org.

You can follow us on Facebook [here!](#)

FISH & FUSION IS OFF FOR THE SUMMER! CHECK YOUR SCHEDULE FOR SUMMER ACTIVITIES!

Kendra Richter’s email

Youth@stmaryslutheran.org. Check out the Facebook page [here!](#)

SENIOR MINISTRY ~ St. Mary’s **The Friendly Center (TFC)** is a senior ministry that has been around for a very long time. TFC is OFF for the summer months! **Call Lisa Zanin 909-1181 with any questions.**

Council Connection for August 2025

Keith Richter

948-9020 ktrichter25@gmail.com

Church Office Hours:

Mondays/Tuesdays/Thursdays:

9:00am-3:00pm

Wednesdays: Noon—6:00pm

Fridays: 9:00am—Noon

Office will be closed for Labor Day (9/1)

Worship Attendance

July, 2025

July 5/6: 85

July 12/13: 110

July 20: 100

THE SPIRIT

the newsletter of
ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
www.stmaryslutheran.org
August, 2025

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Saturday, September 27, 2025

