

WINTER * 2026

THE SPIRIT



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



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



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



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!

Lent 2026



Tell me something good

Grounding ourselves in the good news this Lent

Tell Me Something Good

Grounding ourselves in the good news this Lent—by A Sanctified Art, LLC

"As we crafted this Lenten series, we studied what was central to Jesus' life and ministry: radical welcome, love for neighbor, care for the vulnerable, nourishment for the hungry, nonviolence in the face of injustice. At the heart of Jesus' teachings, we find liberation, love, mercy, and grace—all of which are meant to be very good news for us all."

ASH WEDNESDAY IS FEBRUARY 18th
Soup at 5:00pm;
Worship, Communion & Ashes at 6:00pm.

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP:
Wednesdays

February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026
Soup Suppers: 5:00pm in Fellowship Hall
Worship: 6:00pm in Sanctuary (and online)

All Are Welcome!



ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

2001 80TH ST. ~ KENOSHA, WISCONSIN 53143

262*658*3555

FOUNDED 1874 ~ CURRENT LOCATION 1961

A Message from Our Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Jordan Miller-Subbendick

Winter, 2026

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem...

Psalm 122:6

I am thrilled to let you know that I will be part of a Greater Milwaukee Synod solidarity/accompaniment trip to Palestine in March! I am co-leading this trip with my husband, Adam, and Bishop Paul Erickson.

From March 10-19, the three of us, along with 15 other folks from around the synod, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, will travel around Palestine.

We will see some important historical sights, including the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, where tradition holds that Jesus was born, and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, where it is believed Jesus' tomb was housed and his resurrection took place.

But more than a typical sightseeing trip, this journey will focus on accompanying the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL).

What does it mean to accompany the people of the ELCJHL?

Accompaniment focuses on walking with another person—not telling them what they should do, or how you think they need to change—but bearing witness to their stories, lived experience, and ideas going forward. It is a sense of walking side by side, rather than coming to them with preconceived ideas or answers. It is often easier said than done, but is a really important framework that guides this trip.

When people from Western countries travel to the Holy Land, there is often a focus on visiting the holy sites, the places where Jesus was born, ministered, died, was buried, and rose again. These sites are meaningful and important. And yet, sometimes the focus on churches and ancient stories of faith can cover over the reality of the Palestinian Christians who are living out their faith in Palestine today—vibrantly, and very much alive.

Some Palestinian Christian theologians talk of the holy sites as the ‘dead stones,’ while the Palestinian Christian community in the Holy Land—the actual people—are the ‘living stones.’ Sometimes there is so much emphasis on seeing the places where Jesus walked—the ‘dead stones’—that the reality, stories, and testimony of the ‘living stones’ is forgotten.

The most important emphasis of our group is to focus on accompanying these ‘living stones.’

Our group will be spending time listening to the stories of indigenous Palestinian Christians, especially the members and leaders of the ELCJHL. We will seek to hear and honor their stories, especially the ways that they nurture their faith and joy under very difficult circumstances.

We plan to share meals, conversation, prayer and worship with these Palestinian Christians, who are welcoming us into their lives.

We are excited that among our group will be 5 young adults from the Kenosha/Milwaukee area. Some are current students, while others have graduated, but all are eager to learn and share their experiences upon returning home.

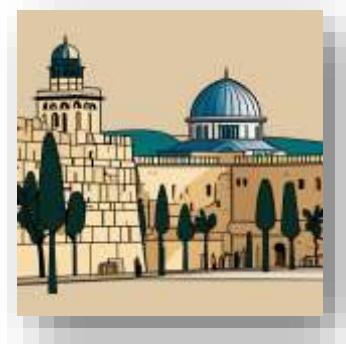
The St. Mary’s Endowment Fund has provided generous support for the young adults attending this trip, as well as support for the ELCJHL. We are grateful that their support has made it possible for all 5 young adults to attend without an undue financial burden.

I look forward to sharing more with you after the trip. Our hope is that we can invite to St. Mary’s participants in the trip, especially the young adults, to share their perspectives and experiences of this solidarity and accompaniment time in Palestine.

During the time I am in Palestine, Pastor Debbie Hartfield will be available for any pastoral care emergencies that may arise.

Please keep our group in your prayers as Adam, Bishop Erickson, and I prepare to lead this trip, as well as during our travels and when we are actually in the Holy Land. Thank you for your prayers and support. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity, and look forward to sharing more with you when I return.

***Peace,
Pastor Jordan***





A Message from the President—Winter, 2026

HOPE

Hello fellow members and friends. I *hope* this year is going well, even when it is cold. I am going to share another acronym (which I *hope* makes sense) that I shared with my fellow workers (at the school district where I teach) during the COVID year, when it was very challenging and worrisome.

I think it ties in with us, here at St. Mary's Lutheran Church.

What do you personally *hope* for? Improved/stronger faith, improved health, financial security, growth/happiness for family members, warmer weather, favorite teams to win, and the list goes on and on.

What do you *hope* for, for our church? More commitment, more people, more opportunities, more... this list goes on and on also.

What do you *hope* for, for our world? Peace, kindness, love, acceptance, understanding,... this list can go on and on as well.

Is *hope* a noun or verb? Not being an English teacher, I have no idea. But I think it could be an action word.

HOPE; Helping hands, Optimistic opportunities, Painful patience, and Exhausting energy.

Stepping up to lend a *helping hand* when needed leads to *hope*. Opportunities abound to seek fellowship and growth, which can lead to

optimistic *hope*. And *painful patience* is present when we seek *hope*. Thus the *exhausting energy* seems to be essential for seeking *hope*, as we work toward a better future for all.

When we *hope* for something, what do we do?

What can we do? What should we do? I think we all have our answers to these questions.

When we *hope* for something, don't we have some sense of positivity/expectation that the outcome will occur? Even if it does not work out the way we *hope* for, there is a progression to move us forward (even if it is in prayer); with some confidence that the outcome will occur. At least we *hope*. As I *hope* this short writing makes sense.

So where does that leave us with *hope*? Well with God's constant grace upon grace, mercy, and His promise to be with us at all times; we can have *hope* that we can get through whatever we are working on getting through or whatever the future has in store for us to get through. We can also have *hope*, knowing that our Savior Jesus, has gone through human *hope* as well and He did so because He loves us.

Therefore we can have *hope* that God will lead us in our personal journey, family journey, our church family's journey, and our country/world journey.

I *hope* you can feel God's love, grace, and guidance this day and all your days.

Peace to you.

Andy Schroeder

Hope

NURSE SUE—Aurora Mission and Faith Team –WINTER 2026

Dear Friends,

In February we celebrate Valentine's Day as well as recognize American Heart Month. Let's focus on Hypertension and its impact on the heart.

Hypertension usually has no symptoms, and many people don't know if they have it.

Hypertension or high blood pressure is abnormally high blood pressure inside your arteries as your heart pumps blood through them. Measurement of blood pressure is read using two numbers. The higher number is called systolic pressure. This is the highest pressure in the arteries when the heart pumps blood into them. The lower number, the diastolic pressure, is the minimal pressure in the arteries when the heart rests to refill between beats (and is not pumping). Your blood pressure varies from day to day, even moment to moment, meeting your body's needs.

Normal range blood pressure is less than 120/80. People with systolic blood pressures between 120 and 129 and have a diastolic pressure less 80 are considered elevated blood pressures and need medical monitoring and lifestyle changes. Stage one hypertension (high blood pressure) is defined as systolic pressure greater than 130 and/or diastolic pressure greater than 80. Stage two hypertension is 140/90 or higher. Anything higher than 180/120 is a hypertensive crisis resulting in a medical 911 emergency.

What can cause high blood pressure?

- Heredity
- Increasing Age: Men between 35 and 55 and women most often after menopause
- Race: African Americans, for example, are more likely to have hypertension
- Obesity: especially in people 30% or more above ideal body weight
- Heavy sodium (salt) intake: keep salt intake under 2400mg/day (ideally 1500 mg for high-risk individuals) recommended
- Moderate to heavy alcohol intake
- Sedentary lifestyle
- Smoking



What can I do to control my blood pressure?

- Stop smoking
- Control your weight
- Exercise for at least 30 minutes, five days a week
- Eat healthy...less fat, sugar and salt
- Limit alcohol
- Limit caffeine (coffee, tea, and colas)
- Manage stress level

Blood Pressure Categories



BLOOD PRESSURE CATEGORY	SYSTOLIC mm Hg (top/upper number)	and	DIASTOLIC mm Hg (bottom/lower number)
NORMAL	LESS THAN 120	and	LESS THAN 80
ELEVATED	120-129	and	LESS THAN 80
STAGE 1 HYPERTENSION (High Blood Pressure)	130-139	or	80-89
STAGE 2 HYPERTENSION (High Blood Pressure)	140 OR HIGHER	or	90 OR HIGHER
SEVERE HYPERTENSION (If you don't have symptoms*, call your health care professional.)	HIGHER THAN 180	and/or	HIGHER THAN 120
HYPERTENSIVE EMERGENCY (If you have any of these symptoms*, call 911.)	HIGHER THAN 180	and/or	HIGHER THAN 120

Have regular check-ups (blood pressure should be checked at least every year starting at age 18)

If I can be of any help in monitoring your blood pressure, please contact me.

May all your lifestyle choices be guided by these words,

“... You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body”
(1 Cor. 6: 19-20)

*symptoms: chest pain, shortness of breath, back pain, numbness, weakness, change in vision or difficulty speaking

heart.org/bplevels

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Shalom, Nurse Sue R.N., F.C.N.
Aurora Mission and Faith Team

TAKE A LOOK AT THESE OPPORTUNITIES

ELCA Social Statement on Faith and Civic Life

Study Series – Free Event

Starting Tuesday, January 13th (six-week course, can start even after week 1) Zoom only at 10:30 am - noon or 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm Join Bishop Paul Erickson and Dr. Joyce Caldwell for a six-week study of the recently adopted ELCA Social Statement on Faith and Civic Life. This social statement sets forth the ELCA's teaching about how disciples and this church may faithfully speak and act in civic life. While existing ELCA social statements and messages address specialized elements of social life, this statement addresses the broad responsibility for seeking the good of all through civic participation.

Learn more and register at:

<https://milwaukeesynod.org/series/faith-and-civic-life-social-statement-study-series/>

TOGETHER IN MISSION - \$25 includes lunch

Saturday, February 7th from 8am - 3pm

St. Matthew's, Wauwatosa

This year, our synod's annual *Together In Mission* event is filled with numerous learning opportunities and time for building relationships across our synod! It will be fun, collaborative and engaging! This event is open to all! A few of the things you will have a chance to:

- +Collaborate on creating a synod mural with Tia Richardson
- +Experience lunch church – a meal-centered worship experience

+ Tools to answer the question -"Are you wondering what might be next for your church?"

+ Learn a "simple process to craft a 1,3,5 and/or 10-year vision for a congregation."

+ Engage with people from across the synod on a variety of topics!

Learn more and register at:

<https://milwaukeesynod.org/event/together-in-mission-2/>

LENTEN TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE

As we enter the season of Lent, we have the opportunity to experience a Lenten Taizé service being held at the Siena Retreat Center in Racine!

Taizé prayer is a form of worship that originated in an ecumenical community in Taizé, France. Founded in 1940, this monastic community, comprised of brothers from both Protestant and Catholic traditions, has been welcoming people of all ages into their community to experience the simple, quiet, contemplative prayer service that we commonly refer to as Taizé.

You are invited for a reflective, ecumenical prayer service including meditative music (We have Taizé chants in our hymnal!), scripture reading, and silent reflection. No registration is required; free-will offering will be accepted. All are welcome! Hope to see you there!

SISTERS' CHAPEL AT THE SIENA RETREAT

CENTER IN RACINE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026

6:30PM - 7:15PM

WINTER Sunday School

January & February 2026

SUNDAY SCHOOL DATES

- January 11 Greet
- January 18
- January 25
- February 1 Greet
- February 8
- February 15
- February 22

WANTED



UPCOMING

January 2026

January 11th. Greet in your P.J.'s!
Be there at 8:40am!
Welcome back!
P.j.'s / Movie 9a-10:30

February 2026

February 1st Greet!
Be there at 8:40a.m. if you can!

ELEMENTARY RETREAT
FEB. 7-8
1 night retreat
GOD'S LOVE IS GREATER

Please watch your email for registration details for attendees and chaperones. If you are interested in chaperoning please let me know ASAP!

I would like to have confirmation of all attendees by Friday, January 9th. In the mean time, I will be letting Lutherforddale know an approximate count based upon what information I have so far.

WINTER

Contact Info

JOAN OEHLMERG:
Coordinator of Children's Ministry
Email: kidmin@stmaryslutheran.org



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS



High School Calendar

- 1/28—FUSION 7-8:45
- 2/4 — FUSION 7-8:45
- 2/11—BINGO
- 2/18—FUSION 7-8:45
- 2/25—FUSION 7-8:45

Middle School Calendar

- 1/26—FISH 6:30-8
- 2/2—FISH 6:30-8
- 2/9—FISH 6:30-8
- 2/16—FISH 6:30-8
- 2/23—FISH 6:30-8

A CHORD WITH THE LORD

Middle and High School Choir

- 1/28—Rehearsal 6:15pm-7pm
- 2/4—Rehearsal 6:15pm-7pm
- 2/18—Rehearsal Time TBD



Good Friday Rehearsals

- 1/25—Interest Meeting in Sanctuary **7pm**
6th-12th graders should join for this meeting if they are interested in taking part in the Youth Led Good Friday Service
- 2/1—Interest Meeting in Sanctuary **6pm**
- 2/8— Rehearsal **4pm**
- 2/15—No Rehearsal
- 2/22—Rehearsal **6pm**



Lent Soup Suppers

5:00PM-6:00PM
FEBRUARY 18TH
FEBRUARY 25TH
MARCH 4TH
MARCH 11TH
MARCH 18TH
MARCH 25TH

Support the St. Mary's Youth, enjoy yummy soup and great community.

FREE WILL OFFERING ENCOURAGED



The Friendly Center December 2025

On December 17th The St. Mary's Lutheran Church Friendly Center held their Christmas Party attended by 51 people. Originally, the Friendly Center Board had planned to hold this event at the Fireside Restaurant in Kenosha. But an unfortunate fire at the venue caused a change of plans and a relocation of the event. The party was still held on the appointed day and members were able to enjoy a delicious meal of ham and sweet potatoes. John Schoettler and his group of trombone players, Bone Appetit, serenaded the group with holiday music. The Friendly Center was able to support two community organizations in the month of December. Monetary donations were given to The Good Samaritan Fund of St. Mary's and the Shalom Center.



In these times, it is more important than ever to learn about the faith of our neighbors, to build greater understanding, respect, and support.

This year, the first night of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan falls on Ash Wednesday, so both Muslims and Christians will spend several weeks focusing on intentional spiritual growth at the same time. As we prepare for our own holy time of Lent, we also have a great opportunity to learn about Ramadan right here at St. Mary's!

Narmeen Salem is a faithful Muslim who is also the owner of **Zaytuna's Kitchen** catering company here in Kenosha. She is a regular vendor at the Kenosha Harbor Market, and

January 28, 2026

The first Friendly Center of the New Year!
Please Join Us!

That Wednesday we will meet at St. Mary's Fellowship Hall for devotions and a program by Pr. Cindy Aasen about her travels in Norway! We will serve for lunch SWEDISH MEATBALLS! The cost is still \$15/per person paid at the door. Please contact a TFC Board

Member to secure your reservation!

Bob & Sue VanBendegom—Rod & Faith Pfleiffer—Sandy Benson—Lisa Rasmussen-Zanin

she catered the presentation on Palestine that my husband Adam and I gave at St. Mary's last year.

ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, DURING COFFEE HOUR, Narmeen has offered to give a short presentation about Ramadan, including plenty of time for questions. ***Her presentation is free of charge, includes a vegetarian meal & dessert, and is an easy, yet impactful way to respect and learn more about the faith practiced by more than 2 billion of our neighbors worldwide.*** Please consider coming to learn more about the most sacred time in the Islamic year, as we prepare to observe the holiest time of the Christian year.

Pastor Jordan

Ramadan



Calling all Crafters!

Whether you scrapbook, quilt, crochet, knit, or whatever your hobby may be, come join us for two days of crafting!

We will host the two day event in fellowship hall on **Friday and Saturday from 8am until 10pm**. There will be two opportunities per year. One in February and the other in November. The cost is \$10 a day which will cover the building rental fee and one 8 ft. table or 5 ft. round table. Feel free to bring in snacks to share to keep you fueled for two full days of fun. Your table can remain set up for the entire time so you can come and go as you please. Someone will always be in fellowship hall to make sure your items are secure.

Mark your calendars for:
February 6th & 7th, 2026
November 13th &14th, 2026

If you are interested or want more information contact Jackie Larsen at 262-496-8800 or email: jmlarsen2987@gmail.com. Space is limited so payment is due to hold your spot!



[HTTPS://STMARYSLUTHERAN.ELVANTO.NET/LOGIN](https://stmaryslutheran.elvanto.net/login)
 USERNAME: [EMAIL ADDRESS] PASSWORD: [RESET] *OFFICE WILL HELP*

A Message from your Financial Secretary—Cari Richter

On behalf of St. Mary's Lutheran Church, thank you for your contributions this past year and for continuing to be faithful in your stewardship to the mission of our church.

Your 2025 Giving Statements are available in the narthex starting the weekend of January 24 through the month of February, 2026.

If you have any questions or need your statement mailed to you, please feel free to contact me. Cari Richter, Financial Secretary, 262-853-2359.

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. [SCAN THIS QR CODE FOR TITHE.LY ONLINE GIVING.](#)
 THANK YOU!



Treasurer's Report - December 2025

Income Actual.....\$87,095.14

Expenses Actual.....\$85,668.44

Results.....+\$1,426.70

Fiscal Year-to-date 25/26

Income Actual.....\$291,292.90

Expenses Actual.....\$283,726.12

Results.....+\$7,566.78

The current Year-to-date percentage of electronic giving to total offerings given is 28%.

ST. MARY'S THANKSGIVING BROWN BAG COLLECTION—THE SHALOM CENTER

Once again, St. Mary's worshipers collected a LOT of non-perishable foods for those in need. 607 lbs. of food was collected and donated! Thank you to everyone who helped in every way! Our brown bag decorators, our loaders and deliverers and all those who prayed and blessed the food!

ST. MARY'S "FOOD ON THE FIRST" RED BAG PROGRAM

Next Bag Pick Up: Saturday, January 31

& Sunday, February 1

Red Bag Drop Off: Weekend of February 6 & 7, 2026

www.KenoshaWelcomeCenter.org for news and updates.



We're on the Web

www.stmaryslutheran.org

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) - "**Sermons**"

Thank you to all who have contributed plastic grocery bags in the past. We will continue to collect them. The container is right by the east double doors. These bags are shared with the ELCA Outreach Center and Kenosha Welcome Center. If you would like to donate personal care items, they can be put in the same container.

Blessings! Gretchen

A Merry Christmas Message from Dr. Julius Mollel

"Thank you, Our Friends. We are all doing fine. Thank you for your prayers! Asante Sana, Stay Safe and Merry Christmas!"

Dr. Julius was sponsored by St. Mary's in medical school in Tanzania in the late 1990s. He spent 3 weeks here in the early 2000s to thank SMLC & to visit medical facilities. Continued prayers for his work & family as that country has recently experienced turmoil.



TANZANIA



★ SHOUT OUT TO GRETCHEN & THE CREW!

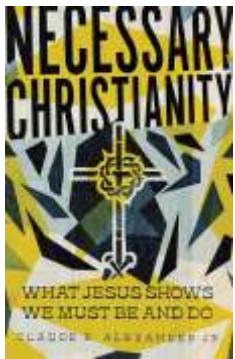
★ December 17th was the Friendly Center Christmas Lunch, but an unfortunate fire at the venue caused a change of plans and a relocation of the event to St. Mary's! Without Gretchen Rasch, Michelle Fonk, Christine Johnson, Margaret VanBoven, Todd & Lana Woller, plus the Board, this would not have

happened! Thank you all so very much for your quick and dedicated SUPPORT!



SHOUT OUT TO RALPH TOLLAS-once again, Ralph purchased and hung up both huge Christmas evergreen wreaths on the stone carports for Advent & Christmas! Thank you!!





In a culture of instant gratification, one in which "freedom of choice" and "my rights" are repeated mantras, it's sobering to learn that for followers of Jesus, certain things are not optional, but necessary. The Book Study group, led by Dick Sjoerdsma, will resume on **Sunday, Feb. 1, 10:15 a.m.**, in the Chapel/Lounge to examine and discuss a book by Claude Alexander, **Necessary Christianity. What Jesus Shows We Must Be and Do** (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2022). The text offers a trove of provocative topics for lively discussion. All are invited to attend. Please purchase your copy of the book in advance of the first class.



St. Mary's Lutheran church will once again be the location for one of the area's AARP Tax Aide sites! [Here's the information if you're interested:](#)

- i) Call AARP (262)671-8461 or online appointment link is www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/
- ii) We will start taking appointments on Monday, Jan. 19, 2026.
- iii) Tax preparation at St. Mary's will be on Tuesdays starting Feb. 3 thru March 31, 2026.
- iv) Clients need to bring the following documents:
- v) Government issued photo ID
- vi) Social Security Card or ITIN card
- vii) Identity Protection Pin number if one has been issued
- viii) W2's
- ix) 1099 forms (1099-R, 1099-B, 1099-D, 1099-INT, etc.)
- x) SSA-1099
- xi) Amount of medical, vision and dental premiums paid
- xii) Checking or Savings routing and account number if direct deposit or direct debit is desired

SCHOLARSHIP

[Endowment Foundation Scholarships](#)

The St. Mary's Lutheran Endowment Foundation will again be awarding scholarships and educational grants for the 2026-2027 school year. Students must be enrolled in an accredited college full-time and be a communicant member of St. Mary's Lutheran Church to apply. Past applicants and recipients are welcome to apply again.

Those wishing to apply for a scholarship may go the St. Mary's Lutheran Church Website, click on [Endowment Foundation](#) and download the appropriate forms. Applications must be filled out completely, for either entering or continuing college student.

Applications, along with transcripts and other supporting material must be postmarked on or before April 30. Any application without a postmark will not be considered.



“HEAR YE!” “HEAR YE!”

Save the Date!

WELCA “Mad Hatter’s” High Tea

Saturday, April 18, 2026

Help fill the WELCA bulletin board in Fellowship Hall with **“MAD HATS”** How many hats can YOU add by April 18???

(Hats, caps will be returned to you.)



PREORDERS REQUIRED!
Orders due by Feb 5th



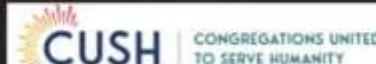
Chili FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH
DELIVERED TO YOUR CAR!
4:00 - 5:00PM
ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
2001 80TH ST., KENOSHA WI

Featuring Rich's famous chili, toppings, corn bread, and homemade desserts! Vegan chili option available, made by Pastor Kathy. Cash or check accepted. Payment due at pickup. Last day to order is Feb 5th.

TICKETS:
\$20 FOR 1 OR
\$30 FOR 2

To order call Bunny or visit our website at:
262-654-7337 (Bunny)
cushkenosha.com

 CONGREGATIONS UNITED TO SERVE HUMANITY

EQUAL EXCHANGE FAIRLY TRADED

Your 2025 purchases made this year's holiday sale a success! During the 5-day sale, we received 2,383 online orders, but many of you shopped our pre-sale (thank you!), resulting in a combined count of: 5,761 orders. 🎉

In just coffee alone, we estimate that we sold roughly the annual harvest of: 25 family farms. 🌾

In this period, we received 403 donations to the Small Farmer Fund, which means you all have brought our online contributions up to: \$52,989 ❤️

Orders from the sale are shipping out, and folks in homes and at gatherings across the country will be enjoying:

- 66,870 cups of cocoa ☕
- 4,296 bottles of olive oil 🍃
- 276,240 cups of tea ☕
- 89,129 servings of nuts & fruit 🍃

Thank you all for being a vital part of our mission. We truly can't do what we do without you. Our community is made up of farmers, worker-owners, alternative trade partners, interfaith supporters, retailers, and individuals like you. Your support allows us to continue working together to power a better, stronger, and more fair food system. **EE FT 2025**



When You Are Sick in Mind, Body, Spirit:

St. Mary's is one of the only 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.



2025 CHECK DISBURSEMENTS

St. Mary's Lutheran Church Endowment Foundation has been supporting local community organizations for over 45 years with the income earned by the foundation's endowment funds.

During the year 2025, St. Mary's Lutheran Church Endowment Foundation funded numerous community programs and non-profit groups totaling close to \$90,000.

Receiving the grants:

- † *ELCA Outreach Center* to help purchase personal care items for their clients and to purchase a floor scrubber to be used in their building
- † *Kenosha Welcome Center* to support their ongoing ministry of feeding our community with utility carts, shelving, and a refrigeration system used for perishable food in their food pantry
- † *Walkin' In My Shoes* for survival backpacks for both adults and children
- † *Salvation Army of Kenosha County* to assist in their homelessness prevention program and the purchase of utility carts used in their food pantry
- † *Sharing Center, Inc.* for homelessness support
- † *Kenosha Achievement Center* to support structured series of workshops for their staff
- † *Kenosha Area Family and Aging Services* in support of their Senior Nutrition Programming.
- † *Peace Learning Circles* to support their bullying prevention program
- † *Royal Family Kids* to support foster care children in a week-long camp
- † *Shalom Center* for support of the National Night Out event and college internships offering tutoring to their clients

- † *Open Wings* for the purchase of 10 Chromebooks needed for their educational program
- † *Kenosha Human Development Services* for Apple Pens used by staff and crisis case workers
- † *ELCA GMS Solidarity Pilgrimage to the Holy Land of Palestine* in March of 2026 to help with the travel expenses of 2 young adults from Carthage
- † ***St. Mary's Lutheran Church Community Quilters*** for material
- † ***St. Mary's Lutheran Church*** for help in paying for the new Electronic Message Center
- † *St. Mary's Lutheran Church* for Sunday School VBS and Lutherford Retreat
- † *St. Mary's Lutheran Church* for M.S. and H.S. winter trips to Camp Timberlee
- † ***St. Mary's Lutheran Church*** for H.S. Mission Trip to N. Carolina
- † *St. Mary's Lutheran Church* for The Good Samaritan Fund



GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS

St. Mary's Lutheran Church Endowment Foundation applications are due February 15, 2026 for disbursement in March, 2026.

To apply for a future grant or to make a donation to St. Mary's Lutheran Endowment Foundation, follow the steps outlined on the website www.stmaryslutheran.org by clicking the Endowment Foundation [link](#).

*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*

OPPORTUNITIES @ CHURCH ~ WINTER, 2026

WORSHIP SATURDAYS, 4PM & SUNDAYS, 9AM

Our weekend order of worship will be available online under "uploaded bulletins, announcements" each week by Friday afternoon.

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 will be exclusively at the rail or from your seat until further notice. Gluten-Free/ regular wafer, wine/juice offered. Anyone or children who haven't received instruction yet may come forward for a blessing instead. Simply fold your hands when approaching. **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS NEEDED AT BOTH SERVICES.** Contact Andy Schroeder (amgeoteach90@yahoo.com)

USHERING All ages, genders & skills welcome! We will be passing the plate at both services. See Dale on Saturdays and Gary on Sundays!

WORSHIP GREETERS: Our first impression specialists! Families can sign up! Individuals! Buddies! Sign up with Margaret Van Boven (mav5804@gmail.com)

MUSIC GROUPS

ADULT CHOIR~ The choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 6:30pm* in the Choir Room. Contact Dick Sjoerdsma (rsjoerdsma@carthage.edu)*7pm during Lent

JUBILATE! ~ Join Nathan Larsen and his dedicated teammates for rehearsals Mondays at 5:30pm in the sanctuary. Jubilate! performs the first Sunday of each month. Contact Nathan NathanLarsen2012@gmail.com

"A CHORD FOR THE LORD" YOUTH CHOIR

St. Mary's 6th-12th graders youth choir will meets Wednesdays, 6:15-7pm in Chapel Lounge. Contact Kendra with inquiries kendra.richter13@gmail.com.

CIRCLES & SMALL GROUPS

St. Mary's Community Quilters ~

Mondays @ 9:00am (Gym)

Miriam Circle ~ 2nd Tuesday @1:00pm (Lo)

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

Women's Book Club ~ 1st Tuesday @ 1:00pm (Lo)

Lydia Circle ~ Off for the Winter

MINISTRIES**SUNDAY SCHOOL**~ 3 yr.—5th Grade

Sunday School meets during 9am worship each

Sunday! Contact Joan. You can follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/smlcsundayschool>

FISH & FUSION YOUTH GROUPS! 6th-12th graders do not have to be members to participate! Check out the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/smlcyouthed>.

SENIOR MINISTRY ~ St. Mary's **The Friendly Center**

(TFC) is a senior ministry that has been around for a very long time. RSVPs needed. *Call Lisa Zanin 909-1181 with any questions. January is 28th & February is 25th. 11am with devotions, programming & lunch.*

PRAYER BREAKFAST—Wednesdays, 7:00am Marina Gardens Restaurant. All are welcome. This is now the combination of the Ladies' & Men's groups for one, amazing gathering of prayer warriors.

COFFEE KRINGLE MINGLE sponsors are needed! If you love to sip some tea, coffee, water or lemonade and catch up with your church friends, we need people to assist with each event. Contact Chris Johnson 818-8879; chris.johnson1800@gmail.com.

FRONT OFFICE DESK VOLUNTEERS There are a couple vacant slots that could use coverage. No long-term commitments; will train on-site; fun atmosphere & greatly needed. Call Beth in office!



KEY CONTACTS—WHO DO YOU CALL?

CHURCH COUNCIL 2025-2026 St. Mary's Church Council meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm. All are 1+(262) unless otherwise noted. Council liaisons are as follows:

AUDIT/FINANCE

Keith Richter.....948-9020

ktrichter25@gmail.com

CHURCH IN SOCIETY

Patricia Mason.....721-8065

godslittlesinger71@gmail.com

EDUCATION (FAITH FORMATION)

Andrea Beer.....945-5901

beerski222@aol.com

THE FRIENDLY CENTER

Lisa Rasmussen-Zanin.....909-1181

lzanin1953@gmail.com

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Andrea Beer.....945-5901

beerski222@aol.com

NOMINATING

Dana Larsen.....414-748-0448

dana.larsen.wdc@gmail.com

PERSONNEL

Andy Schroeder.....344-1902

amgeoteach90@yahoo.com

PROPERTY

Keith Richter.....948-9020

ktrichter25@gmail.com

RECONNECTION*HOSPITALITY*FELLOWSHIP

Hollie DeFranco.....914-0136

holliedefranco@gmail.com

STEWARDSHIP

Stephanie Raszkiewicz.....945-7519

stephrz01@yahoo.com

WORSHIP MUSIC ARTS

Markie Hylinski.....515-3032

hylinskim@gmail.com

YOUTH Sandy Bear.....496-4370

sandymbear@outlook.com

Council Connection for January 2026

Sandy Bear 496-4370 sandymbear@outlook.com

Council Connection for February 2026

Andrea Beer 945-5901 beerski222@aol.com

ST. MARY'S STAFF: 658-3555 *The Dial by Name* directory is set up for FIRST Names except for Nurse Sue—she isn't listed.

All staff emails ...@stmaryslutheran.org

The Rev. Dr. Jordan Miller-Stubbendick, Lead Pastor
ph. 799-5791 or pastorjordan@
Rev. Debbie Hartfield, Associate Pastor
ph. 599-5795 or pastordeb@

Deb Black, organ.....choirmama100@gmail.com

Beth Kerscher, Admin. Assistantext. 300 or bkerscher@

Art Kotenko, Audio Video Technicianavtech@

Susan Peet, Bookkeeper.....ext. 323 or bookkeeper@

Willy Mueller, piano.....sillywilly.m@gmail.com

Nurse Sue, Advocate Faith and Health Community Program/
Care Ministry Coordinator.....658-3555 or fcn@

Kendra Richter, Youth Director.....ph. 287-2483 or [Youth@](mailto>Youth@)

Joan Oehlberg, Coordinator of Children's Ministry

ph. 658-3555 or KidMin@

Dr. Richard Sjoerdsma, choir.....rjoerdsma@carthage.edu

Nathan Larsen, handbells.....NathanLarsen2012@gmail.com

Winter Church Office Hours:

Mondays/Tuesdays/Thursdays:

9:00am-3:00pm

Wednesdays: Noon—6:00pm

Fridays: 9:00am—Noon

December Worship Attendance

Advent 1—snow day / cancelled

Advent 2—126

Advent 3 & Children's Program—130

Advent 4—132

Christmas Eve (5pm) 196 & (8pm) 117=313

Lessons & Carols: 88

THE SPIRIT

the newsletter of
ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
www.stmaryslutheran.org
Winter, 2026

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*The Friendly Center
Meets in Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, January 28 2026
11:00am*

