



MARCH * 2026



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

MARCH

Lent 2026



Grounding ourselves in the good news this Lent

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP: Wednesdays

March 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026

Soup Suppers: 5:00pm in Fellowship Hall
Worship: 6:00pm in Sanctuary (and online)

We will gather in the sanctuary to sing hymns, read scriptures, share poems and/or reflections and ground ourselves in the good news this Lent together. There will not be communion or a sermon. Worship is expected to last no more than 30 minutes. All are welcome!

Holy Week

Palm Sunday Worship
March 29 at 9:00am

Maundy Thursday
April 2 at 6:00pm

Good Friday Youth Led Worship—April 3 at 7:00pm

Easter Vigil—April 4 at Carthage College, 5:00pm

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Palm Sunday Breakfast

March 29—9:30a-11:30a
In the Gym
Egg Bake or Biscuits/Gravy
\$10/adults \$5/child under 10

Easter Sunday

April 5th—Worship at 9:00am
“Christ is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia”



2026 St. Mary's Easter Garden Memorials

Courtesy of Sunnyside Florist

**PLEASE RETURN INFORMATION TO CHURCH OFFICE BY
Monday, March 16th, 2026.**

You can mail, drop off, or scan and email to
info@stmaryslutheran.org

I/We wish to order _____ plant(s) for the altar area.

(checks payable to St. Mary's Lutheran Church only).

In honor of/In memory of: _____

I/We wish to give a gift of \$ _____ to be given to the ELCA Outreach Center.

(checks payable to ELCA Outreach Center [not SMLC])

In honor of/In memory of: _____



White Lilies
6-1/2" - single stem.....\$14
7-1/2" - double stem.....\$23
10" - triple stem.....\$33

Dutch garden—Mixed bulbs in bamboo basket
6"\$19
8.....\$24



6-1/2" azaleas.....\$21



6-1/2" hydrangea.....\$21



\$10.50 tulips or daffodils or hyacinths

Enclosed is \$ for each potted plant ordered. Lilies are white. All others are various colors. Gold foil on each pot.; bamboo basket for Dutch gardens I will pick up my plant(s) following the Easter service on Sunday, April 5th or on Tuesday, April 7th (church office is closed on Easter Monday, 4/6).

Given by: _____
Phone # _____ /Email: _____

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Please join us on Palm Sunday—March 29th at 9:00am when the St. Paul's Brass Ensemble will play with us in worship bringing another layer of praise and jubilation on this festival day! St. Mary's Adult Choir and Jubilate! Handbells will also play in worship—some pieces together with brass!

*"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!"
Psalm 100:1*

A Message from Our Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Jordan Miller-Stubbendick

March, 2026

Recently, someone asked me why young children are invited to receive communion at St. Mary's, even before they take a first communion class.

This is a good question, and is worth discussing in more detail.

Admission to the sacrament of communion is by Jesus Christ to all the baptized. For this reason, as soon as an infant is baptized, they could theoretically receive communion right away, although this doesn't happen in most congregations.

There is no set age at which it is appropriate to receive communion, and there are a variety of practices across the ELCA.

The ELCA has a document called *The Use of the Means of Grace*, first published in 1997 and revised in 2013, that explains the theology behind common practices regarding baptism and communion, the two sacraments celebrated in the Lutheran church. *The Use of the Means of Grace* explains that in earlier generations, it was customary for children to receive instruction in communion around fifth grade, and to take communion for the first time after the completion of this class. This understanding has evolved over the years, especially as there are fewer children involved in church.

I understand wanting children (and adults) to have some kind of knowledge of what communion means. Understanding is important, and can come in many ways. Formal instruction is one way to understand, and so is experiential learning. Our hearts and bodies can come to a kind of understanding about communion in different ways than our minds.

I have frequently heard the idea that children need to understand what is happening during communion before they can be permitted to receive it. I appreciate where this idea comes from, but I also challenge it a bit. As Lutheran Christians, following the teaching of Martin Luther, we affirm that the real presence of Jesus Christ is "in, with, and under" the bread and wine of communion. We believe that somehow, the bread and wine both becomes the body and blood of Jesus, while at the same time, remains actual bread and wine. Can you explain or understand how this happens? I certainly can't—and I have spent a lot of time reading books and writing papers on this kind of thing!

Additionally, if we require full understanding in order to allow someone to take communion, we risk excluding not only young children, but also those who are affected by cognitive impairments, such as dementia or Alzheimer's disease. If we insist on an arbitrary standard of comprehension, we might unwittingly leave out someone who is neurodivergent, or lives with mental illness or any of the many diagnoses and experiences that are part of being human.

From a pastoral care perspective, I believe it is important to invite everyone to the table. God in Jesus Christ has promised to be present every single time we human beings take communion. This is a great comfort and joy. As a pastor, it is part of my role to help connect people with experiences that will nurture their faith. There is no age minimum for doing this. I welcome the joy with which little ones hold out their hands for the bread and the juice. I hope this kind of joy is always part of their life of faith. Witnessing this joy benefits adults, too.

These are reasons why all people are invited to the communion table at St. Mary's, regardless of age. If you would like to talk more about this, please let me know. I welcome further conversation.

Peace,

Pastor Jordan

*

In March, I will be co-leading a solidarity and accompaniment trip to Palestine, focusing on the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). I will be out of the office from March 9-21.

Pastor Debbie Hartfield will provide pastoral care coverage from March 10-19, and Pastor Becca Laabs of Trinity and Lakeside Lutheran Churches will provide pastoral care coverage for March 20-21. Pastor Debbie can be reached at 262-599-5795, and Pastor Becca can be reached at 608-632-1045. I will take Sunday, March 15 and Sunday, March 22 as continuing education Sundays.

On Sunday, March 15, a representative from Lutheran Social Services will preach and Pastor Cliff Schmidt will preside at communion. On Sunday, March 22, Pastor Nancy Eggert will preach and preside.

*

This is just a reminder that if you have a pastoral care concern, please come to me directly! I can be reached at 262-799-5791 or PastorJordan@StMarysLutheran.org.

NURSE SUE – Aurora Faith and Health Team – MARCH 2026



Dear Friends,

As we slide into March, we raise up World Down Syndrome Day on March 21st. We celebrate and champion for all those loved ones that were born with Down Syndrome. I want to bring awareness to this condition and educate and debunk myths and misinformation. As I advocate for our granddaughter, I am reminded to celebrate our abilities and accomplishments in life and reflect on the many blessings we each experience every day.

Down syndrome occurs when an individual has a full or partial extra copy of chromosome 21 (occurs during conception) This additional genetic material alters the course of development and causes the characteristics associated with Down syndrome. Here is some good information from the National Down Syndrome Society.

- ◇ There are three types of Down syndrome: trisomy 21 (nondisjunction) accounts for 95% of cases, translocation (inherited) accounts for about 3%, and mosaicism accounts for about 2%.
- ◇ Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring chromosomal condition. Approximately one in every 640 babies in the United States is born with Down syndrome – about 5,700 each year.
- ◇ Down syndrome occurs in people of all races and economic levels.
- ◇ The incidence of births of children with Down syndrome increases with the age of the mother. But due to higher fertility rates in younger women, 51% of children with Down syndrome are born to women under 35 years of age.
- ◇ People with Down syndrome have an increased risk for certain medical conditions such as congenital heart defects, respiratory

and hearing problems, Alzheimer's disease, childhood leukemia and thyroid conditions. Many of these conditions are now treatable, so most people with Down syndrome lead healthy lives.

- ◇ A few of the common physical traits of Down syndrome are: low muscle tone (infants might need more tummy time to strengthen neck), small stature, an upward slant to the eyes, and a single deep crease across the center of the palm. Every person with Down syndrome is a unique individual and may possess these characteristics to different degrees or not at all.
- ◇ Life expectancy for people with Down syndrome has increased dramatically in recent decades – from 25 in 1983 to 60 years old today.
- ◇ People with Down syndrome attend school, work, participate in decisions that affect them, have meaningful relationships, vote, and contribute to society in many wonderful ways. All people with Down syndrome experience cognitive delays, but the effect is usually mild to moderate and is not indicative of the many strengths and talents that everyone possesses.
- ◇ Quality educational programs, a stimulating home environment, good health care and positive support from family, friends and the community enable people with Down syndrome to lead fulfilling and productive lives.

Enjoy the upcoming spring and all that comes with it! I am praying for you. 😊

Shalom,

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

BYE-BYE
WINTER

Sunday School

March 2026



SUNDAY SCHOOL DATES

FEBRUARY 28 4PM SING / SERVE
MARCH 1 No Sunday School
MARCH 8 GREET
MARCH 15
MARCH 22
MARCH 29 Palm Sunday



UPCOMING

March 8

Greet!

Be there by 8:40am if you can!

March 15

Guest Kids Connection!



March 22

Sunday School Family Meeting
in Fellowship
10:00a - 10:45a

March 29

Annual procession of palms and singing
along with youth.
Meet in Fellowship by 8:40a

April 5: Easter: No Sunday School

April 12: No Sunday School

April 19: Greet



Contact Info

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



SMLC

YOUTH

MINISTRY NEWS



High School Calendar
3/4 FUSION 7pm—8:45pm
3/11 FUSION 7pm—8:45pm
3/18 FUSION 7pm—8:45pm
3/25 No FUSION –GF Rehearsal

Middle School Calendar
3/2 FISH 6:30pm-8pm
3/16 FISH 6:30pm-8pm
3/23 FISH 6:30pm-8pm
3/30 NO FISH — HOLY WEEK

A CHORD WITH THE LORD
Middle and High School Choir
3/4 Rehearsal 5:45-6:15
3/18 Rehearsal 5:45-6:15
3/29 Sing @ Palm Sunday



PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST
 March 29th 9:30am-11:30am
 Adults - \$10
 Children - \$5
 Meal choice between:
 Ham and Cheese Egg Bake
 Biscuits and Gravy
 Tickets available for sale after services or at the door!

Youth Led
GOOD FRIDAY
 7pm - SMLC *Service*
 2001 80th St Kenosha, WI

Good Friday Rehearsals

Sunday 3/1 6pm-7pm
 Sunday 3/8 6pm-7pm
 Sunday 3/15 6pm-730pm
 Sunday 3/22 6pm-730pm
 Wednesday 3/25 7pm-830pm
 Sunday 3/29 6pm-730pm

Lent Soup Suppers **5:00PM-6:00PM**
 MARCH 4TH
 MARCH 11TH
 MARCH 18TH
 MARCH 25TH

Support the St. Mary's Youth, enjoy yummy soup and great community.
 FREE WILL OFFERING ENCOURAGED



Don't be late for a very important date.
St. Mary's "WELCA High Tea"

*welcome to wonderland
we are all mad here*

Please join us down the "RABBIT HOLE" for a

Mad Hatter Tea Party

How lovely it would be if you would join us for tea.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026
St. Mary's Fellowship Hall 1-3pm ~
Doors open 12:30pm

Dress as if you are going to a garden party — party-comfy and casual.
YOU MUST WEAR A HAT—any kind will do!
Bring your favorite tea cup and saucer.

RESERVATION FEE is \$10.00 per person,
children - 10 and under \$5.00
Gentlemen are welcome to attend.

Tables for 6-7-8 people can be reserved.

RESERVATIONS DUE BY SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026

Purchase tickets after Saturday or Sunday services.
Or stop by the church office
M-T-Th 9a-3p W Noon-6p F 9a-12p
or call in your reservation (262)658-3555
Cash or Checks - payable to "WELCA, St. Mary's Lutheran".

Donations of pet food for our local rescue animal
shelters and/or monetary donations accepted.





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

Next Bag Pick Up: Saturday, February 28
& Sunday, March 1

Red Bag Drop Off: Weekend of March 7 & 8, 2026

www.KenosaWelcomeCenter.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"



**HTTPS://
STMARYSLUTHERAN.ELVANT
O.NET/LOGIN
USERNAME: [EMAIL
ADDRESS] PASSWORD:
[RESET] OFFICE WILL HELP**

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 January 2026

Income Actual	\$32,844.92
Expenses Actual	\$46,438.46
Results	(-) \$13,593.54

Fiscal Year-to-date 25/26

Income Actual	\$324,137.82
Expenses Actual	\$331,774.78
Results	(-) \$7,836.96

The current Year-to-date percentage of electronic giving to total offerings given is 29.5%.

In March, Pastor Jordan will be co-leading a trip to Palestine, focusing on the ELCJHL. She will be out of the office from March 9-21.

If Pastoral Care Needed, please call:

Tuesday, **3/10**-Thursday, **3/19**: call Pastor Debbie Hartfield (262)599-5795
Friday, **3/20**-Saturday, **3/21**: call Pastor Becca Laabs (608)632-1045



Shine Out!
Shout Out!

SHOUT OUT TO THE MEMBERS OF SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE & ST. MARY'S
from Leona Luckason! Thank you for all your well wishes and prayers!

SHOUT OUT TO JACKIE LARSEN—she single-handedly cut and punched the Lent daily devotional cards herself! Thank you, Jackie!

SHOUT OUT TO everyone enduring the broken FOB reader on east side. We wait.



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 (FCN). 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 TAX FILING

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

Easter is April 5



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.





Orders must be placed through the CUSH website



Soup Fundraiser

THURSDAY, MARCH 19TH
EAT IN OR CARRY OUT
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
ST. MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
2001 80TH ST., KENOSHA WI

Purchase tickets at
CUSHKENOSHA.COM

Price- \$10 per bowl | Place orders by March 18th
St. Mary's Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall
2001 80th St, Kenosha, WI 53143
(262) 658-3555



THE FRIENDLY CENTER NEEDS 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.

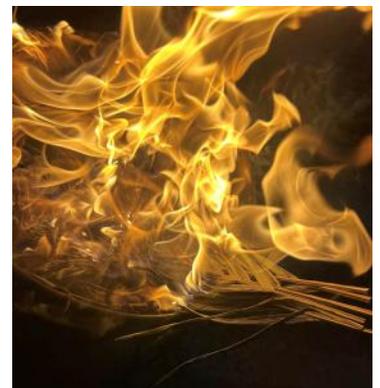
These might include: set up crew, clean up crew, food prep and cooking, plating food, serving food, making phone calls, creating and sending the newsletter, etc.

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.

Call one of the Board members if you are interested: The Pfeiffers, VanBendegoms, and Lisa Zanin.

St. Mary's Youth burn last year's palms into ashes for Ash Wednesday with Pastor Debbie. They said it was a fantastic experience! [thank you]



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

krichter25@gmail.com

CHURCH IN SOCIETY

Patricia Mason.....721-8065

gods littlesinger71@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

krichter25@gmail.com

RECONNECTION*HOSPITALITY*FELLOWSHIP

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 Sandy Bear.....496-4370

sandymbear@outlook.com

Council Connection for March 2026

Sandy Bear 496-4370 sandymbear@outlook.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-Stubbenick, Lead Pastor

ph. 799-5791 or pastorjordan@stmaryslutheran.org

Rev. Debbie Hartfield, Associate Pastor

ph. 599-5795 or pastordeb@stmaryslutheran.org

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

Beth Kerscher, Admin. Assistantext. 300 or bkerscher@stmaryslutheran.org

Art Kotenko, Audio Video Technicianavtech@stmaryslutheran.org

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

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

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

Kendra Richter, Youth Director.....ph. 287-2483 or Youth@stmaryslutheran.org

Joan Oehlberg, Coordinator of Children's Ministry

ph. 658-3555 or KidMin@stmaryslutheran.org

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

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

March Church Office Hours:

Mondays/Tuesdays/Thursdays:
9:00am-3:00pm

Wednesdays: Noon—6:00pm

Fridays: 9:00am—Noon

January & February

January 3/4: 118

January 10/11: 155

January 17/18: 100

January 25: 84

January 31/February 1:

102

Worship Attendance

Feb 7/8: 109

Feb 14/15: 131

Ash Wednesday: 103

Feb 21/22: 112

Feb. 25: 39

THE SPIRIT

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

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 ©The Spirit of St. Mary's Lutheran Church February 26, 2026 Volume 32, Issue 2



March 2026 (United States)

1 2 3 4
 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
 19 20 21 22 23 24 25
 26 27 28 29 30

FOR ANY PASTORAL EMERGENCIES—CALL:

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Pastor Jordan in Palestine— PASTOR DEBBIE HARTFIELD (262)599-5795				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Pastor Jordan in Palestine—Pastor Jordan in Palestine— PASTOR DEBBIE HARTFIELD (262)599-5795					
					Pr. Becca Ladbs (608)632-1045	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28


 We are a
RECONCILING IN CHRIST
 Congregation

St. Mary's Lutheran Church
 2001 80th Street
 Kenosha, WI 53143
 (262)658-3555

