



Our Shared Mission: We are saved by grace through faith to share the good news of the Gospel with all people and live God's love by our words and actions.



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SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2020

This Special Edition of our Monthly Newsletter covers information for the Congregations of both Gethsemane and St. Stephen's Lutheran Churches.

Northern Great Lakes Synod
www.nglsynod.org

Our Worship spaces will remain **CLOSED** for the entire month of **JUNE**, as we navigate how and when to safely re-open our doors.



Visit either Facebook Page to watch



Daily Devotionals
and

Sunday Worship Services.

facebook.com/GethsemaneWallaceELCA

facebook.com/StStephensStephensonELCA



ELCA
www.elca.org



Jerry Rasner
 Keith Thoune
 Tracy Klatt
 Dean Gerue
 Shirley Wangerin
 Wayne Sundstrom
 Stephanie Walren
 Tammy Parrett
 Emily Christenson
 Evelyn Gewerth
 Christine Havelka
 Karen Raether
 Lewis Nicholson
 Robert & Macy Berzsenyi
 Cheryl Bogdan Lorrie Stone
 Denise Marineau
 Dave Koski Lois Azelton
 Caitlin Christophersen
 David Kohrt
 Luann Q. Kiefer
 Michelle Bouchard
 Darcy Fournier
 Bob Slight
 Larry Pepin
 Julee Nordin
 Charlotte Brochhausen
 Tammy Veraghen
 Brian Raether
 Sheila Konkel
 Tom Wenger Mike Lubore
 Coralee Mack
 Kevin Havelka
 Deloris Erickson
 Crystal Salo
 Tony Gill Becca Merk
 Al Macco
 Norman Putschak
 Wayne Mulzer

*Thank you for holding
 the friends and family
 of our Congregants in
 your daily prayers.*

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

*Please keep the office
 informed as to the status of
 people on this list, and
 when to remove their name.*

~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*~*

*Corrections? Additions?
 Please contact the Church
 Office. Thanks!*



Jared Jurmu
 Brent Jurmu
 James Dutkavich
 Jay Chapple
 Thomas Dutkavich
 Julie Tanguay
 Trish Dams

Birthday Blessing

- 1 Kevin Harris
- 5 Jamie Marcusen, Cassie Paulson,
Richard Hanson
- 6 Roger Grinsteiner
- 7 Janice Kuharski
- 8 Sebastien Erickson, Deb Kruhmin
- 9 LaVerne Noasconi
- 13 Colin Christopherson,
Elaine Haban
- 15 Ava Johnson
- 16 Tammy Fletcher
- 21 Harlan Anderson, Greg Paulson,
Jim Roubal
- 24 Lisa Roubal, Joshua Sobay
- 25 Ally Schultz
- 26 Trevor Christopherson,
Amy Vretenar
- 26 Randy Harris
- 27 Renee Peretto
- 28 Janet Mullard
- 30 Jim Skowronski

- 2 Dennis & Cyndie Berger
- 5 Dave & Jane Christenson
- 6 Tim & Cheri Leiphart
- 7 Richard & Barbara Hanson
- 11 Bryan & Erica Motto,
Al & Karen Raether,
Tyler & Kortney Sulk
- 16 Janet & Elmer Mullard,
Todd & Penny Nehls
- 21 Brian & Debbie Panske
- 22 Tom & Diane Rivard
- 25 Chris & Wendy Christopherson

Happy Anniversary!

FORTUNE LAKE LUTHERAN CAMP
 A place of grace... 138 Fortune Lake Camp Rd. Crystal Falls, MI
 fortunelake.org (906) 214-2267

*This year's event will look different than years
 past as it will likely be a virtual experience.*

However, we're still committed to the same Fall Fest elements you've come to expect and love: beautiful one-of-a-kind handcrafted items, celebrating what God is doing at Fortune Lake, and raising funds for our favorite Place of Grace!

*Quilters and artists, keep crafting and stay tuned, with a **September 1st** tentative submission date in mind. Submission details/forms will be available on our **website** soon.*



✦ **THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR BRENDA**



My Dear Church,

*Between the daily devotions and weekly services, I'm guessing you might be ready for a change of pace – something more than just words. Thus, my message comes to you this month in the form of **images**, two taken from the air by Brad Decker, and one taken from the ground by me.*

*Decker is a **drone** pilot and photographer, and recently posted these amazing photos of both Stephenson & Wallace. You can find his work on Facebook at “Area Drone Pics and Videos”.*

*Such a spacious and beautiful view of not only our cities, but of so **MANY** of our worship spaces. Yes, both buildings can be seen in the two photos I've included here, but the **CHURCH** can truly be seen, too.*

There it is, in the local farmhouse. Oh! Do you see it there, in those trees? Ah, there's the Church, in the hearts of those people in their cars. What a gorgeous reminder of the width and breadth of God's kingdom, absolutely surrounding us all.

*Our **final** photo this month was taken by me on the ground, and intrigues me on multiple levels: while there is a pathway ahead, which way the road turns is unknown from this vantage point. The trees loom, but the bluest of skies beckons.*

*This, my friends, is where we find ourselves in the month of June: not exactly knowing the path ahead, but trusting the God of the trees and the skies to guide our way. I know it's not easy to be apart from one another, but we continue to **BE** the Church, in our homes, and in our world.*

Keep the faith and watch for those blue skies!
Pastor Brenda

An Update from the Joint Council



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ Amen.

No Church Council in over 100 years has had to deal with a pandemic, and with the guidance of our called/elected Church leadership, we have been given sound, Christian plans to care for ourselves and each other.

Thank you to all who have continued as “essential” workers in grocery stores, pharmacies, front line workers in hospitals, EMS, Fire Services and extended care facilities. We urge you to continue your personal ministries. You are THE CHURCH in the world.

As we anticipate first phases of reopening, the Joint Council will endeavor to make deliberate, careful **plans** to keep us safe as we look forward to the day when we can meet and worship in person. The Joint Council continues to meet on a regular basis to discuss plans to resume in-person worship services. With guidance from our Churchwide and synod leadership and following state and federal guidelines, we plan to resume in-person services when it is deemed safe to do so. When we do resume in-person services there will be some noticeable changes, and people who are high-risk are encouraged to still worship from home until they feel safe and comfortable to return.

Until that time, continue to be safe, patient, and gentle with each other.

Peace be with you,

Your Joint Council Members

Harlan Anderson, Wendy Christophersen, Kelly Francour, Judi Freis, Sandy Gill, Wendy Hanson, Sue Hess, Carol Klein, Deb Kruhmin, Cheri Leiphart, Mary Jo Mahaffy, Janet Mullard, Keith Olson, Al Raether, Kami Salo, John Starzynski, Pete Thoune, Ruth Thoune

- In what I believe, is a first for both congregations, a combined Council meeting was held via Zoom on the evening of May 28th – what would our congregation's charter members think of such goings on!!
- All members of both Councils participated in one way or another – smart phone, iPad, computer, text message! A great big THANK YOU to Pastor Brenda for organizing and leading the meeting! That was a HUGE accomplishment just getting us all on the screen at the same time!!
- Prior to the meeting, Pastor Brenda had shared information from both Bishop Elizabeth Eaton of the ELCA and Bishop Katherine Finegan of the NGL Synod concerning guidelines and suggestions for opening our buildings, along with a letter from the Pastors of the Menominee Valley Conference.
- Purpose of the meeting was to discuss options for the path forward as far as opening our buildings and holding in-church services and gatherings as, hopefully, this virus pandemic eases.
- After discussion, it was determined to continue with the on-line worship services and daily devotions (both have been very well received) for the next month.
- Pastor Brenda also put out a request for anyone wishing to help with the devotions or willing to read the Lessons for Sunday worship.
- It was also determined that the Council presidents, Wendy Hanson and Pete Thoune, would draft a letter to be shared with all members of both congregations to highlight and inform everyone of our decision concerning building use and our ongoing financial need even while the buildings are closed.
- The next combined Council meeting was set for June 23, 2020 at 6:15 pm
- Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer. *Respectfully submitted by Carol Klein, Gethsemane*

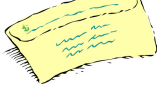
TIME	ITEM	DISCUSSION POINTS
5:45P	<i>Pre-meeting Assistance with Technology</i>	Rev. Brenda
6:15p	Welcome and Opening Prayer	Rev. Brenda
6:15-6:40	Time to Connect - BRIEFLY share: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What you MISS • What you've ENJOYED • How we can PRAY for you 	All members shared
6:40-6:58	Overview of Information / Current Decisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishop Eaton • Bishop Finegan • Menominee Conference <i>A copy of each letter can be found on our website: gsslutheran.org</i>	<p>Bishop Eaton-reviewed guidelines, need to adhere to legal and safety requirements. Pete wanted clarification on the 3 phases.</p> <p>Bishop Finegan-has been checking in/very hands-on</p> <p>Menominee Conference-refrain from in person until safe. Some members have been contacted and they are not ready for in-person contact yet.</p> <p>Conclusion-continue to gather information, follow guidelines and revisit in a month as a Joint Council. Take things slowly.</p>
6:58-7:08	Current Offering Status – Ideas, Assistance	Declining but people are offering in other ways. Conclusion was to have congregation Presidents craft a letter to send to members. Be compassionate about members who may be struggling financially.
7:08-7:17	Additional Issues / Concerns / Celebrations / Ideas	Daily Devotions - Rev. Brenda would like to see members participate in videos. June 7 Bishop Eaton assisting service. Sandy was concerned about World Hunger donations. Confirmation discussion. Next Joint Meeting is Tuesday, June 23, @ 6:15 p.m. virtually.
7:17-19	Closing Prayer + Lord's Prayer	Rev. Brenda
7:20p	Adjournment	Rev. Brenda <i>Respectfully submitted by Kelly Francour, St. Stephen's</i>



STEWARDSHIP & MEMORIAL DAY

During this time of "virtual worship," we will depend even more on the generosity of this community. We pray that you will continue to support Christ's mission through sending in your weekly Offering.

Offering Envelopes



Don't have the fancy envelopes on hand? No problem! A simple envelope from your home will do, as well. The mailing **address** for each Church is on the first page of this Newsletter, and all you'll need is a **stamp** to send these gifts by mail.



Remember Your Offerings

The Financial Secretaries of each Church (Sandy Beardsley and Sandy Chaney) have been checking PO Boxes at the end of **each week**, gathering, recording, and depositing your offerings to be used for ministry. They have been delighted to find your gifts in the mailboxes! Thank you for your faithfulness.

*All that we are able to give flows directly from God's compassion and God's ever-abundant faithfulness. So, **thank you** in advance for all that you can do during these difficult days - through sharing generously and regularly throughout the crucial weeks to come, and by making a special gift of support if you are able.*

*And may God continue to bless and sustain us as we stand, **boldly and gratefully**, ready to share the good news of the Gospel with all people and live God's love by our words and actions!*

A Prayer for Memorial Day: *O God of life, you are older than time. You have seen generations who have died through sacrifice, war, courage, and folly. You have comforted generations who mourned and grieved and sang solemn songs and laid flowers on graves. Gather us in your embrace and cradle us with your compassion. As we remember those who have died in past wars and conflicts, help us to remember that You were there when the mountains were formed. You were there to soothe our grief and breathe hope into the hopeless. You are with us still. We give you thanks for life in Jesus and pray that your lives may be reflections of His love. **Amen.***



Al Raether at the Koss River Bridge



Elmer Mullard at Mellen Township Cemetery



Military Honors at Bethesda Cemetery



DAILY DEVOTIONS

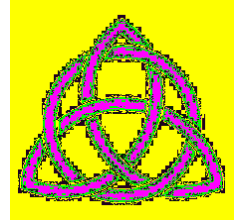
FROM THE REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY

Sun June 7 – The Holy Trinity

Genesis 1:1–2:4a, Psalm 8, 2 Corinthians 13:11-13, Matthew 28:16-20

Prayer of the Day: Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.

Mon – June 8	Job 38:39–39:12	1 Corinthians 12:1-3	Psalm 29
Tue – June 9	John 39:13-25	1 Corinthians 12:4-13	Psalm 29
Wed – June 10	Job 39:26–40:5	John 14:25-26	Psalm 29
Thu – June 11	Exodus 4:18-23	Hebrews 3:1-6	Psalm 100
Fri – June 12	Exodus 4:18-23	Acts 7:35-43	Psalm 100
Sat – June 13	Exodus 6:28–7:13	Mark 7:1-13	Psalm 100



Sun June 14 – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 19:2-8 Psalm 100, Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35–10:8

Prayer of the Day: God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

Mon – June 15	Joshua 1:1-11	1 Thessalonians 3:1-5	Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45
Tue – June 16	1 Samuel 3:1-9	2 Thessalonians 2:13– 3:5	Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45
Wed – June 17	Proverbs 4:10-27	Luke 6:12-19	Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45
Thu – June 18	Jeremiah 18:12-17	Hebrews 2:5-9	Psalm 69:7-18
Fri – June 19	Jeremiah 18:18-23	Acts 5:17-26	Psalm 69:7-18
Sat – Jun 20	Jeremiah 20:1-6	Luke 11:53–12:3	Psalm 69:7-18



Sun June 21 – 3rd Sunday after Pent.

Jeremiah 20:7-13, Psalm 69:7-18, Romans 6:1b-11, Matthew 10:24-39

Prayer of the Day: Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

Mon – June 22	Micah 7:1-7	Revelation 2:1-7	Psalm 6
Tue – June 23	Jeremiah 26:1-2	Revelation 2:8-11	Psalm 6
Wed – June 24	Jeremiah 38:1-3	Matthew 10:5-23	Psalm 6
Thu – June 25	Jeremiah 25:1-7	Galatians 5:2-6	Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Fri – June 26	Jeremiah 28:8-14	Galatians 5:7-12	Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18
Sat – June 27	Jeremiah 28:1-4	Luke 17:1-4	Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18



Sun June 28 – 4th Sunday after Pent

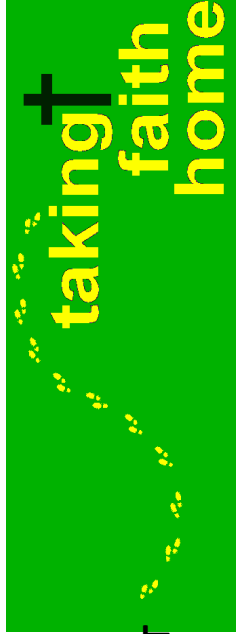
Jeremiah 28:5-9, Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18, Romans 6:12-23, Matt. 10:40-42

Prayer of the Day: O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

Mon – June 29	1 Kings 21:1-16	1 Thessalonians 4:9-12	Psalm 119:161-168
Tue – June 30	1 Kings 21:17-29	1 John 4:1-6	Psalm 119:161-168
Wed – July 1	Jeremiah 18:1-11	Matthew 11:20-24	Psalm 119:161-168
Thu – July 2	Zechariah 1:1-6	Romans 7:1-6	Psalm 145:8-14
Fri – July 3	Zechariah 2:6-13	Romans 7:7-20	Psalm 145:8-14
Sat – July 4	Zechariah 4:1-7	Luke 10:21-24	Psalm 145:8-14



**JUNE 28, 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**



We are freed from sin to care for others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 10:40-42	Receiving and serving others
Monday	Jeremiah 28:5-9	Hananiah opposes Jeremiah
Tuesday	Romans 6:12-23	Slaves of righteousness
Wednesday	Genesis 22:1-14	Command to sacrifice Isaac
Thursday	Psalms 13	Prayer for deliverance
Friday	Acts 6:5-15	The arrest of Stephen
Saturday	Psalms 89:1-4, 15-18	God's covenant with David
Sunday	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Rest for the weary

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. **Romans 6:13 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, your love is so complete that we cannot fully grasp it. Help us to enjoy life in your presence and extend your love, grace, mercy, and peace, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this food, another example of your constant love and faithfulness, through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 89:2)

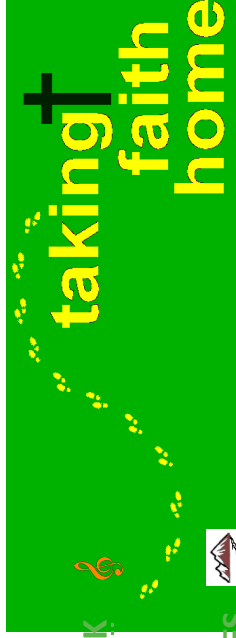
A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord who has freed you from sin bless you with a holy life and life eternal. (Romans 6:22)



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**JUNE 28, 2020
HYMN OF THE WEEK
There's a Wideness in
God's Mercy**



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When have you been tempted to do something you knew was wrong? What happened?
- Should there be consequences when someone does something wrong? Explain.
- How does the Christian faith lead you beyond selfish desires?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 6:12-23.

Since the time Paul conveyed the radical message “where sin increased, grace abounded all the more” (Romans 5:20b), Christians and non-Christians alike have wondered if the Christian faith was license to live immorally. If our sin leads to God’s grace, should we help God out by sinning all the more so that God’s grace will be extended all the more? Heavens, no, answers Paul (6:15). What then? Sin is not simply bad actions. For Paul, sin is a demonic power in the universe opposed to everything that is of God. Being baptized into Christ is to die to that life opposed to God (6:4). What do we do then? With everything in us, we live “to God as instruments of righteousness” (6:13). We gladly participate in God’s saving activity in the world with our words, actions, thoughts, and hopes. The life ruled by Christ is not easy to comprehend so Paul writes, “I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations,” so just go for it! Give it your all for the sake of all that is holy, just, and full of God’s presence (v. 19). How does God’s grace give you a desire to do all you can to love and serve in Christ’s name?

Pray: **Gracious God, give us the desire to serve in your kingdom as instruments of your goodness through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Leading a life as a follower of Jesus can seem to be a big task. In Matthew 10, Jesus reminds us that even the small things we do are acts of service, like giving a cup of water (v.42). Giving a drink of water, holding a door, and offering a kind word can make a difference in someone’s life. What acts of service can you do this week?

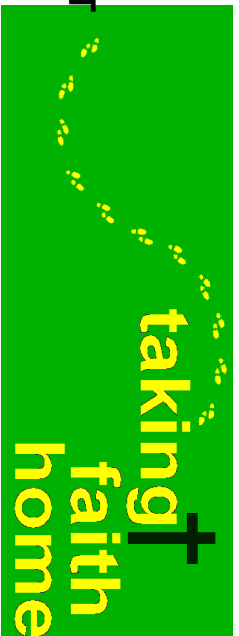
RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

If we want Christian children and youth, we need Christian adults who practice the faith with them. Whether mealtime or bedtime prayers, reading the Bible, singing hymns, or blessing one another, the faith practices we model in our homes live on from generation to generation. Make a list of faith practices you do in your home. What ones have you passed on to others?



In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an

JUNE 21, 2020 THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Christ gives us a new life.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 10:24-39	The call and cost of discipleship
Monday	Jeremiah 20:7-13	Jeremiah denounces his persecutors
Tuesday	Romans 6:1b-11	Dying and rising with Christ
Wednesday	Genesis 21:8-21	Hagar and Ishmael are sent away
Thursday	Psalms 86:1-10, 16-17	Save me, Lord
Friday	Ephesians 4:17-24	The old and the new life
Saturday	Psalms 69:7-18	God can be trusted
Sunday	Matthew 10:40-42	Receiving and serving others

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in the newness of life. **Romans 6:4 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Merciful God, help us to trust that all that we are and hope to be is found in the new life we have through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, all good things come from you; thank you for your goodness that gives us food to eat this day. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God draw near to you and free you from your fears through Christ your Lord. (Psalm 69:18)



MILESTONES
MINISTRY

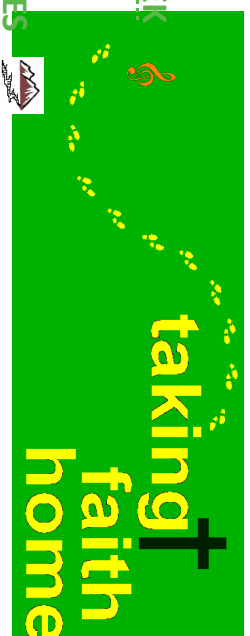
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JUNE 21, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Lord Jesus,
You Shall Be My Song*

WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something you would like to accomplish in the next year?
- What is it about that accomplishment that is important to you?
- Why do you think Jesus wants us to value a relationship with him above all things?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 10:24-39.

Core values are important because they define what we stand for and who we are. Jesus indicates that following him is non-negotiable and an all-or-nothing proposition. Sometimes we must let go of what we treasure in life to gain what really counts in God's kingdom. In the process, Jesus gives a number of stark contrasts, many of which are hard to hear. Following Jesus will lead some to be rejected by family, which was a reality in first-century Christianity and can be true today, too. Acknowledge Jesus and he will acknowledge you. Deny him and he will deny you. In the midst of these tough passages is Jesus' repeated theme of not being afraid (vv. 26, 28, and 31). Jesus warns us not to deny him before others, but Peter does three times before Jesus' crucifixion (Matthew 26:69-75). What Peter learns is that mercy, not judgment is the ultimate core value in the kingdom. God's mercy takes away our fear. Jesus calls us to make a difference and to rely on him. We all father. Jesus doesn't. This is the newness of life that the Apostle Paul identifies (Romans 6:4) for the baptized that stands out for its dramatically different way of living. How does God's mercy help you not to be afraid?

Pray: **Dear God, may our life in Christ give us peace and good courage as we live each day with others. Amen.**

SERVICE



Sunday is Father's Day. Take time to offer prayers of thanksgiving and support for fathers and all men as they seek to be caregivers to those around them. Begin your prayers by saying, "Dear God, thank you for (name) . . ." Contact or visit those for whom you have prayed and/or send them a card as a sign of your appreciation and thankfulness.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



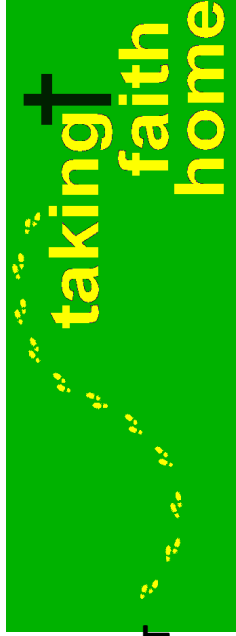
Baptism involves the mystery of God's work that claims us as God's own in Christ. Think about or tell a story about your baptism or that of someone else. Fill a bowl with water. Dip your fingers into the water. Make the sign of the cross on your forehead or that of another person. *Say:* **May God bless you with new life in Christ each and every day.**



MILESTONES
MINISTRY

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an

**JUNE 14, 2020
SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**



We are sent by Jesus to bless others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 9:35—10:23	The sending of the twelve
Monday	Exodus 19:2-8a	Israelites go to Mt. Sinai
Tuesday	Romans 5:1-8	How to be acceptable to God
Wednesday	Genesis 18:1-15	A son promised to Abraham
Thursday	Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19	Thanksgiving for illness recovery
Friday	Galatians 5:13-15	Christ gives freedom
Saturday	Psalms 100	The Lord is good
Sunday	Matthew 10:24-39	The call and cost of discipleship

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. **Matthew 9:35 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God of constant love and faithfulness, we thank you for your care; give us strength to extend your care to others through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

We thank you for this food, a gift of your steadfast love and faithfulness. Amen. (Psalm 100:5)

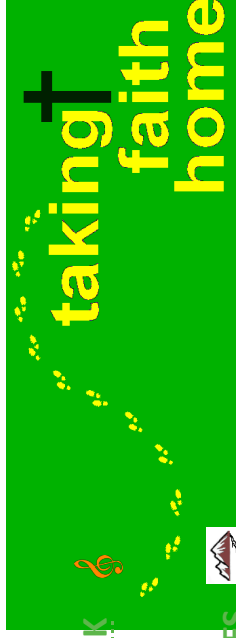
A Blessing to Give:

May the compassion of the Lord be with you and care for you like a shepherd cares for the sheep. (Matthew 9:36)

JUNE 14, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

All People That on Earth Do Dwell



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS!

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What does it mean to you to bless someone?
- Our relationship with Jesus is meant to bless others. What does this mean to you?
- Jesus' followers were sent out to do the work of Jesus. Do you think this was easy or difficult? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 9:35—10:23.

In the Old Testament lesson for this week (Exodus 19:2-8a) God once again establishes a covenant with the house of Jacob, just as God established a covenant with Abram in Genesis 12. God is making a priestly people, a holy nation to bless the world. In Matthew 9 and 10, Jesus now is establishing his covenant with his followers to bless others. Just as Jesus himself tells good news to people and heals every disease and sickness (9:35), his followers will go out and do similar acts of the kingdom (10:1 and 7). Those sent out by Jesus are doing the work of Jesus. The task was not easy for Jesus and will not be easy for his followers (10:16-23), but the Spirit of God will go with them (10:20). This passage is filled with compassion and is sobering at the same time. This is not someone else's ministry. It is the call all followers of Jesus have in some form. It is a daring mission that requires courage and wisdom (10:16). It is not an optional task. Our work as Jesus' hands, feet, and voice in the world day in and day out wins because we do not go alone, but with the Spirit of God. How do you accomplish the task of being Jesus' hands, feet, and voice in the world?

Pray: **Almighty God, send us out with your message of hope and compassion that heals through Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

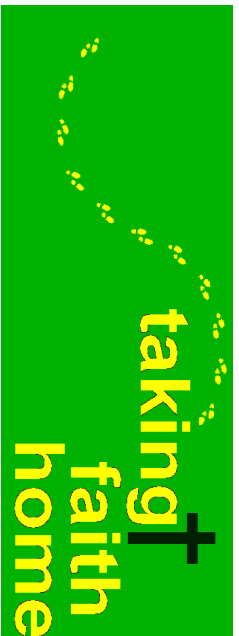
SERVICE

Christian mission trips can be local or global and participants serve as Jesus' hands, feet, and voice in the world. There are many opportunities to serve on and/or financially support a mission team. Have you been on a mission trip? If so, share your story with someone and invite them to get involved. If not, find out more about supporting or joining a mission trip locally and globally.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing" (Psalm 100:1-2). *I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down in My Heart* is a popular Christian song written in the 1920's and still stirs memories and joy in the hearts of many. Take a moment to make a joyful noise to the Lord and sing this well-known song.

JUNE 7, 2020 TRINITY SUNDAY



We have important work to do.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 28:16-20	Sending of the disciples
Monday	Genesis 1:1–2:4a	God creates everything
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Live in peace
Wednesday	Isaiah 40:27-31	The Lord gives strength
Thursday	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Bringing people to God
Friday	Genesis 9:1-7	The covenant with Noah
Saturday	Psalms 8	Wonderful name of the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 9:35–10:23	The sending of the twelve

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

You have given them [human beings] dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet. **Psalm 8:6 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and living God, we thank you that you have given us dominion over all you have made. Help us to care for creation and for all people through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, the works of your hands have placed all things under our feet. Help us remember and always give thanks for the foods we eat. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. (2 Corinthians 13:13)



JUNE 7, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK *God of the Sparrow*

WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When have you been given responsibility to care for something very important?
- How do you care for God's creation?
- You have been created in the image of God to care for others. Tell or think about a story of how you cared for someone or someone cared for you.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Genesis 1:1–2:4a.

The goodness of creation is described through the harmony of creation: there is a greater light (sun) in balance with a lesser light (moon); earth, sea, and sky work together; the earth brings forth living creatures of every kind; and, it is all good. God creates a world to enjoy and a world we are to care for (1:27-30). God's reign on earth will happen through human beings, the creatures to whom God has uniquely given God's image. The creation story gives us a dignity and an assignment to care for all creation (see Psalm 8). We celebrate the Trinity this Sunday as a reminder of our relationship to God, the one who created us in the image of God to go out and care for the world. In this same spirit, Jesus sends out his followers to serve in the image of God and do the work of Christ in the world to recreate, redeem, and sustain all that God made. Reflect on how God sends you out to care for the earth.

Pray: **Dear Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, you made us to be creatures of dignity and responsibility; bless us now to live as your chosen ones. Amen.**

SERVICE



God gave us "every plant yielding seed", "every tree with seed in its fruit", and "every green plant for food" (Genesis 1:29-30). Keeping soil healthy contributes to a living ecosystem and enables food production. There are ways to restore nutrient-poor fields to their natural productive abilities. Visit a local organic farm association or master gardener to learn about food conservation. How can you support their efforts?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



This is Trinity Sunday. In the word Trinity, "tri" means "three" and "unity" means one. Draw a triangle on a piece of paper. Write Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in each of the corners. Think or talk about what each one means to you. In the center of the triangle draw a heart and write the word love. **Pray: Dear God, we praise you for your abundant love. Thank you for sending Jesus to teach us. Please help us to open our hearts to the work of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**





SPECIAL EDITION
NEWSLETTER
JUNE 2020

This Special Edition of our Monthly Newsletter covers information for the Congregations of both Gethsemane + St. Stephen's Lutheran Churches.



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