



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 – JULY 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** on Sunday, July 5th. The Joint Council convenes again the evening of Tuesday, July 7th to reevaluate our current situation. **PLEASE** watch the Facebook pages/website for worship updates.



Visit either Facebook Page to watch



Daily Devotionals
and

Sunday Worship Services.

facebook.com/GethsemaneWallaceELCA

facebook.com/StStephensStephensonELCA



ELCA
www.elca.org



Comfort and hope of the resurrection to the family of +**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 Plutchak
- Wayne Mulzer Clyde Thoune

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.

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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 Erica Kuehnau, Daniel Thoune, Brianna Martin
- 2 Tyler Crawford, Donna Thoune
- 4 Gabriella Porter
- 5 Jane Christenson
- 12 Mason Paris
- 13 Cheryl Martin
- 14 Alayna Klatt
- 16 Bruce Bergquist
- 17 Mykle Kowalski
- 18 Madison Bergquist, Mark Koldos, Matt Koldos, Aaron Caylor
- 21 Alvin Etelamaki, Judy Stone, Cooper Johnson
- 22 John Starzynski, Jim Gill
- 23 Wendy Majkrzak
- 24 Brianna Hess
- 26 Gary Hess, Rosemary Kautzer
- 29 Margaret Galbraith, Wayne Salo
- 30 Tim Plutchak

Happy Anniversary!

- 2 Wayne & Janet Salo
- 8 Keith & Crystal Salo, David and Mary Jo Mahaffy
- 14 Steve and Gloria Bogdan
- 18 John & Pattie Starzynski
- 21 Gary Jr. & Tara Klatt
- 22 Robert & Judy Stone

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,

This past week, I hit a **milestone** I was hoping to put off as long as possible: the first death of a congregant. Somehow, an entire year passed without a single funeral inside the walls of St. Stephen's or Gethsemane. All of that changed on the morning of Thursday, June 18th, 2020, when +Jerry Rasner+ completed his baptismal journey, and joined his Creator.

Sigh. It's not as though I wanted to avoid a Funeral; I believe the **Christian funeral** gathering, be it inside a sanctuary or around a gravesite, is a beautiful and essential part of our journey. It's important for the family to know the one who has died was loved, and it is just as important for the community to grieve the loss of one of their own. The body of Christ that hurts together, **heals** together.

So, it's certainly not the service or funeral rituals I had hoped to avoid. **It's just the thought of saying goodbye to even ONE of you THAT saddens my heart.** I honestly do not know how people who live without faith in a resurrected Christ even begin to piece back together their heart, and I feel profoundly grateful for the hope and peace our God gives to us in times such as these.

As I walked with +Jerry+ and his family in his final days, I watched the small pond in the backyard of his river home go through quite the transformation. The old pond was falling apart: the lining at the bottom had been punctured, the water was leaking from the structure itself, the moss had overtaken the stones, and the bridge was no longer able to be traversed. In short: this pond's time on earth was coming to an end.

The transformation of which I spoke came from each of +Jerry's+ children: Mark tackled the task of finding someone to construct a new and improved bridge, Mike's land provided the sturdy rocks of which the pond was to be shaped, and DJ spent the time and labor it took to transform that space of land from an old, mucky hole, into a beautiful, life-giving pond.



FOUNDATION: I cannot recall the last time I was able to quote from the book of Ezra, but I found these words to ring true: And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord, ***“For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel.”*** ***And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. (Ezra 3:11)***

Designing the foundation of the new pond indeed called for rejoicing, as it was to last for decades to come. The plastic was no good, the canvas was too permeable, and on and on they went. It actually was +Jerry+ who came up with the idea of coating the large canvas with a flexible sealant. Sure enough, the pond was able to sustain both water and, hopefully, the weather over time.

A life without a solid foundation in Christ is as **weak** as the original pond plastic proved to be: full of dangerous holes, and leaking into the world around it. We may think we can handle the world on our own – as exposed as the naked canvas once was, but in truth, we, too, need the flexible coating of our Lord's protection. A life lived in Christ, an existence **sealed** in the Spirit, provides the foundation upon which we are called to live. For this we give a great shout to the Lord!

BRIDGE: The sturdy bridge that now sits atop the rejuvenated pond serves as a beautiful reminder of how Jesus serves as the Great Connector in this, our earthly journey. ***For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man, Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 2:5)*** Jesus is able to show us the way toward forgiveness, and away from selfishness. He helps reconnect us with relationships, and keeps us from isolation. The Great I Am bridges what would be an insurmountable chasm between God and humanity with the love He showed for us on the cross.



ROCK: When DJ was dreaming of how to transform the muddy pit into a sustainable pond, he envisioned the use of stackable rocks to construct the walls. Thankfully, there were (literally) tons of rocks to be found beneath the soil of his brother, Mike's property. We scooped up those mini-boulders, seeking just the right widths and sizes to help build the walls of the pond. We also knew the rocks had to be strong enough to sustain both the foot traffic around the pond as well as properly support the new bridge.

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. (Psalm 18:2) Seeking the right kind of rock in LIFE is just as essential. I can imagine there have been times in your life (I know there have been in mine) where the ground upon which you stood was anything but sturdy. A time where our wobbly, little legs were being supported by OUR will, and not GOD'S. How apt to see this pond, with each of its carefully selected stones, and be able to reflect on just how STRONG the walls now stood. The Rock in whom we take our refuge stands ready to guard and guide the ground upon which we walk, supporting whatever is placed upon our hearts.

WATER: The Gospel read at +Jerry's+ graveside service included this verse: ***“And let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’” (John 7:38)*** A pond wouldn't be much of a pond without, well, WATER! As followers of Christ, we know – we BELIEVE – that the Living Water that has flowed into our lives comes to us out of sheer GRACE. We might have manually filled up the pond with water, but our God continues to fill US with the water that will continue to sustain us in this life.

COVID UPDATE: I know how hard it is to be apart from one another. Your Joint Council continues to converse with one another, all while watching both the local news, the reports from the scientific community, and the governmental mandates/suggestions. Just when we think we've been able to hold the virus at bay, we have SIX additional, confirmed reports of COVID in our community...just this week. **Grr!**

Oh, how frustrated that makes me – and yet, as your leader, it is my duty, my responsibility, my CALL to lead you SAFELY. The COVID-19 pandemic is far from over, and we all must redouble our efforts to follow public health directives and help keep our neighbors and ourselves safe. I continue to pray that you are staying strong and well as we weather this storm together.

May your foundation be strong, your Bridge be ever-near,
your Rock be your guide, and may living water flow into each and every day,

Pr. Brenda

JOINT COUNCIL MEETING – via Zoom June 24, 2020

- The Joint Councils met to further discuss the re-opening of our churches – when, how, what type of service – indoor/outdoor, etc.
- Discussion was held concerning the possibility of outdoor services at both churches (weather permitting) – availability of Holy Communion, music options, availability of recording systems, wearing of masks, social distancing were some of the issues addressed.
- Pastor Brenda also reminded the Councils that the original recommendations handed down from the Synod office and the National Church office are still in effect and we are still encouraged to follow them.
- It was also noted that, though we have not had a new case of the virus during the past two weeks in Menominee County, cases in Marinette County continue to increase. And as so many from our area either work or shop in Marinette, there is still a real possibility of transfer of the virus to our area.
- After discussion and a voice vote, it was determined that we are not ready to move forward at this time and will meet again in two weeks.
- The next Joint Council meeting will be held Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at 6:00 pm.
- Meeting was closed with prayer led by Pastor Brenda.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Klein, Gethsemane

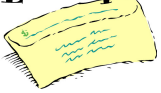
Time	Item	Respectfully submitted by Kelly Francour
6:00p	Pr. B available to assist with Technology	Pastor Brenda
6:15p	Hello + Opening Prayer	Pastor Brenda
6:20 p	Updates from Pastor Brenda	Pastor Brenda
	Next Steps for July + August <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Reminder: at this time, indoor worship means:</u> • no air conditioning can be running • no fans to be blowing • no spoken responses • no hymns can be sung aloud • no spoken prayers • no offering plate • no sharing of the peace or goodbye greeting • no Holy Communion • no Fellowship time 	-Majority of the discussion was about outdoor service or continuing the online service. -All agreed to follow the Bishop’s guidelines and postpone outdoor & indoor services. -Safety concerns are still high.
	Worship for Sunday, June 28th: https://www.nglsynod.org/covid-19-online-worship/	-Service will be provided by another church. -Communion will be added into future online services.
6:55 p	Closing Prayer + Lord’s Prayer	Pastor Brenda
7 p	Adjournment Next Meeting is Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at 6p	All



STEWARDSHIP: OUR TIME, OUR TALENTS, OUR TREASURE

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!



Beauty All Around



Beautiful marigolds!

Thanks,

Clyde Thoune!



Gorgeous landscaping!

Thanks, Tena Roubal!

Straightened parking lot signs!

Thanks,

Nick Diehm!



DAILY DEVOTIONS

FROM THE REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY

Sun July 5 – 5th Sunday after Pent - Zechariah 9:9-12, Psalm 145:8-14, Romans 7:15-25, Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

***Prayer of the Day:** You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

Mon – July 6	Jeremiah 27:1-11, 16- 22	Romans 1:18-25	Psalm 131
Tue – July 7	Jeremiah 28:10-17	Romans 3:1-8	Psalm 131
Wed – July 8	Jeremiah 13:1-11	John 13:1-17	Psalm 131
Thu – July 9	Isaiah 48:1-5	Romans 2:12-16	Psalm 65: [1-8] 9-13
Fri – July 10	Isaiah 48:6-11	Romans 15:14-21	Psalm 65: [1-8] 9-13
Sat – July 11	Isaiah 52:1-6	John 12:44-50	Psalm 65: [1-8] 9-13

Sun July 12 – 6th Sunday after Pent - Isaiah 55:10-13, Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13, Romans 8:1-11, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

***Prayer of the Day:** Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

Mon – July 13	Leviticus 26:3-20 1	Thessalonians 4:1-8	Psalm 92
Tue – July 14	Deuteronomy 28:1-14	Ephesians 4:17-5:2	Psalm 92
Wed – July 15	Proverbs 11:23-30	Matthew 13:10-17	Psalm 92
Thu – July 16	Isaiah 41:21-29	Hebrews 2:1-9	Psalm 86:11-17
Fri – July 17	Isaiah 44:9-17	Hebrews 6:13-20	Psalm 86:11-17
Sat – July 18	Isaiah 44:18-20	Matthew 7:15-20	Psalm 86:11-17

Sun July 19 – 7th Sunday after Pent - Isaiah 44:6-8, Psalm 86:11-17, Romans 8:12-25, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

***Prayer of the Day:** Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

Mon – July 20	Nahum 1:1-13	Revelation 14:12-20	Psalm 75
Tue – July 21	Zephaniah 3:1-13	Galatians 4:21-5:1	Psalm 75
Wed – July 22	Daniel 12:1-13	Matthew 12:15-21	Psalm 75
Thu – July 23	1 Kings 1:28-37	1 Corinthians 4:14-20	Psalm 119:129-136
Fri – July 24	1 Kings 1:39-48	Acts 7:44-53	Psalm 119:129-136
Sat – July 25	1 Kings 2:1-4	Matthew 12:38-42	Psalm 119:129-136

Sun July 26 – 8th Sunday after Pent - 1 Kings 3:5-12, Psalm 119:129-136, Romans 8:26-39, Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

***Prayer of the Day:** Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

Mon – July 27 1	Kings 3:16-28	James 3:13-18	Psalm 119:121-128
Tue – July 28 1	Kings 4:29-34	Ephesians 6:10-18	Psalm 119:121-128
Wed – July 29	Proverbs 1:1-7, 20-33	Mark 4:30-34	Psalm 119:121-128
Thu – July 30	Proverbs 10:1-5	Philippians 4:10-15	Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Fri – July 31	Isaiah 51:7-23	Romans 9:6-13	Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Sat – Aug 1	Isaiah 44:1-5	Matthew 7:7-11	Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21