



Gethsemane Lutheran Church
 P.O. Box 98
 Wallace, MI 49893 (906) 788-4234
 E-mail: Goffice@gsslutheran.org

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.

Reverend Brenda L. Greenwald
 Phone/Text: 720.989.8218
 E-mail: Pastor@gsslutheran.org



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
 P.O. Box 435
 Stephenson, MI 49887 (906) 753-4932
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JOINT NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2020



**EXTRA! EXTRA!
 READ ALL ABOUT IT!!**

Two Options for Worship Services during the month of August!

- (1) **Online Worship:** our online service will continue, available via Facebook.
- (2) **Outdoor Worship:** we will gather for a brief, outdoor service on Sunday

Details for Sunday's Outdoor Service

- We will gather for worship at the LARGE Pavilion in Stephenson (*Erickson Park –easily accessible via Cedar St, off of Willow St.*) each Sunday during the month of August.
- The service begins at 9:30am and will be approximately 40 minutes.
- Service will include: Prayers, brief homily, songs (by Pr. Brenda only, not congregationally), and Holy Communion.

Some Fun Facts

- Pavilion is covered for shade/weather.
- Amplification System will be used.
- Bathrooms are available. Kitchenette is NOT.
- Holy Communion will be served using individual packets, opened and disposed of by individual congregants. The wafer AND the juice are included in these packets.
- Masks are to be worn at all times (and available on-site).
- Hand-sanitizer will be available.
- Socially-distanced SEATING will be designated (sitting with your family is just fine)
- Feel free to bring your own chair, if you know that will be more comfortable.



**PLEASE WEAR
 A FACE MASK**



THANK YOU

PLEASE NOTE: If the weather forecast for Sunday looks to be ominous, we'll simply have the online service. Pr. Brenda will make the final call on Friday by noon, and post it to the website, Facebook, and Answering Machines of each church.

While we WON'T be able to have a Fellowship Time just yet, we WILL be able to gather safely outdoors in a holy way. Be sure to do what's right for YOU and your comfort level – that's why both options for worshipping are still being made available. **See you for worship on Sunday, online or outdoors!**



Comfort and hope of the resurrection to the family of
+Clyde Thoune+
 who died on July 14, 2020.

- 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 Audrey Anderson
- Judi Freis Crystal Salo
- Tony Gill Becca Merk
- Al Macco Norman Plutchak
- Tim Leiphart Bruce Christenson

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 Tyler Sulk
- 2 Janet Salo
- 3 Lynda Keller, Peany Parrett
- 4 Karen Tickler
- 8 Emily Caylor, Brian Johnson
- 11 Kayla Berger
- 12 Bob Stone
- 13 Sharon Etelamaki
- 14 Carol Heydn, Scott Krzych
- 23 Patty Vandenberg
- 24 Perry Erickson
- 25 Mike Caylor
- 28 Russell Burie, Morgan Peretto, Autumn Rasner, Sue Skowronski
- 30 Fred Lesperance

Happy Anniversary!

- 1 Jeff and Sharon Peretto
- 4 Mike and Lynda Caylor
- 5 Paul & Kelly Francour
- 19 Jim & Janet Voss
- 20 Nicholas & Jessica Schultz
- 22 John and Sandy Beardsley
- 27 Roy & Tammy Parrett
- 29 Vernon and Cindy Paul



The newly, handcrafted sign at Bethesda Cemetery.

Thanks for all of your hard work, Keith Olson and Alvin Etelamaki!

If you can volunteer to assist clients at the Food Pantry from 9a-12p on Sat. Aug. 29th, please call Harlan at (906) 458.8326. THANKS!





FORTUNE LAKE LUTHERAN CAMP

A place of grace...

fortunelake.org

138 Fortune Lake Camp Rd. Crystal Falls, MI
(906) 214-2267

IMPORTANT Fall Fest Information!

Have an item to donate?

- All submissions are **due on or before September 1**
- Our Fall Fest Committee respectfully requests that **all donated items have a value of at least \$50**. Due to the remote nature of our auction, we need to account for shipping costs and are unable to take items of lesser value.
- Value of items will be assigned by the Auction Committee's assessment of item based on the cost of materials provided.
- Please attach the Fall Fest Auction Donation Form. (next page) to each donated item.



2020 Fall Fest Auction

- Our 2020 Fall Fest will be a virtual experience that will bring together supporters and friends of Fortune Lake from far and wide!
- We'll still have all your favorite elements: beautifully crafted quilts, other quality hand-made art, and plenty of fun ways to support our outdoor ministry. New in this year's auction will be some **Fortune Lake experiences to bid on!** Details are still in the works, but it is sure to be an exciting day.

Silent Auction: Sept 23 – Oct 3

- Bidders will be encouraged to register to our safe, secure platform early to participate in our silent auction which will begin on **September 23 and go through October 3**.
- The silent auction will contain most of our items, and you'll have plenty of opportunity to make your selection and set your maximum bids.



Live Auction: Oct 3

- A few select items will be held over for a live virtual auction on **October 3**, during which we invite all of our supporters to join us online for a grand event celebrating the camp we all love!

Fortune Lake Fall Fest 2020 Guidelines for Donated Items

1. Please fill out form completely and legibly.
2. Measurements must be on each item.
3. ALL ITEMS due to Camp Office by **SEPT 1ST, 2020** to be considered for inclusion in the auction.
4. This will be a juried auction, so the Auction Committee will look at all items submitted on time, to decide which to include in the Auction.
5. Quilts/Projects that are valued at less than \$50 or small items may be grouped together and/or will be part of the Store or Draffle drawing. A few items may be offered as door prizes.
6. Value of items will be assigned by the Auction Committee's assessment of item based on the cost of materials provided.

The Auction Committee would like to get the highest possible income from the auction items in order to benefit Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp with this fundraiser, so there will be a limited number of items in the Auction. Remaining items will be used at the discretion of the Committee.

THANK YOU for your generous and talented support of FLLC !!

For use by Auction Committee:

CHECK-in REFERENCE (alpha-#): _____ Date Rec'd: _____ AUCTION LOT #: _____

OR in Corner Country Store @ \$ _____ OR in Draffle _____

FORTUNE LAKE FALL FEST and QUILT AUCTION (Saturday, October 3, 2020)
AUCTION / STORE DONATION FORM

SUBMISSION of ITEMS: Projects should be received at FLIC by Tuesday, September 1, 2020.

[PLEASE NOTE: Any items received later than September 1, 2020 WILL NOT be considered for the auction.
Late submissions or remaining auction items may be retained by the donor, or its use designated at the discretion of the Committee.

Attach this Sheet to Project (Please print legibly. Thank you!)

.....
Donated by: _____

Made by: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

Congregation: _____ Congr City _____

Piece/Pattern Name: _____

Size: in. X in. _____ Main Colors: _____

Material/s: _____

Technique: _____

Quilting: _____

Other Info/Description: _____

Cost of Materials: \$ _____ Hours of Labor: _____

(Not suggested retail value)

(Information only)

Please list any history or other significant information here (attach addtl sheet if needed):

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STEWARDSHIP AND JOINT COUNCIL UPDATES



During this unique time of 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.

Updates from Your Joint Councils

JOINT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - via Zoom July 7, 2020

- The Joint Councils met to further discuss the re-opening of our churches.
- With a definite increase in number of virus cases in both Menominee County and Marinette County, it was determined that nothing would change at this time.
- The possibility of outdoor services was again discussed with no action taken.
- Because of the connection difficulties, it was suggested the next meeting be an in-person meeting. No action was taken.
- The next Joint Council meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, July 28 at 6:00 pm

JOINT COUNCIL MEETING (in-person, outdoors) July 28, 2020

- Pastor Brenda opened the meeting with greetings and prayer.
- She then presented three options for Worship for the month of August:
 1. Continue with online services
 2. Outdoor Worship
 3. Something NEW we haven't thought of just yet!!
- Following lengthy discussion concerning the pros and cons of Outdoor Worship at the large pavilion at Erickson Park in Stephenson, it was decided to give it a try for the month of August. The two major reasons for moving forward with this option were 1) the opportunity for in-person worship, and 2) participation in Holy Communion.
- Masks and social distancing will be a requirement.

The major con was the reluctance of some parishioners to gather in groups during this time of the pandemic. The fact that this would be a shortened service, as would be the Online service for those who are unable to attend in person, was also a concern.
- After more discussion, it was decided to try the posting of the Worship via FaceBook Live.

(NOTE: Pr. Brenda has later decided against this option due to sound and text/prayer issues.)
- Next Meeting was scheduled for August 25th at 6 pm, at which our **September Worship Plans** will be discussed. Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Klein

**DAILY DEVOTIONS****FROM THE REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY****Sunday Aug 2 – 9th Sunday after Pent: Isaiah 55:1-5 Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21, Romans 9:1-5 Matthew 14:13-21**

Prayer of the Day: Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

Mon – Aug 3	Deuteronomy 8:1-10	Romans 1:8-15	Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29
Tue – Aug 4	Deuteronomy 26:1-5	Acts 2:37-47	Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29
Wed – Aug 5	Exodus 16:2-15, 31-35	Matthew 15:32-39	Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29
Thu – Aug 6	1 Kings 18:1-16	Acts 17:10-15	Psalm 85:8-13
Fri – Aug 7	1 Kings 18:17-19, 30-40	Acts 18:24-28	Psalm 8:8-13
Sat – Aug 8	1 King 18:41-46	Matthew 16:1-4	Psalm 85:8-13

Sunday Aug 9 – 10th Sunday after Pent: 1 Kings 19:9-18, Psalm 85:8-13, Romans 10:5-15, Matthew 14:22-33

Prayer of the Day: O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons & daughters from fear, & preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior + Lord, Amen.

Mon – Aug 10	Genesis 7:11–8:5	2 Peter 2:4-10	Psalm 18:1-19
Tue – Aug 11	Genesis 19:1-29	Romans 9:14-29	Psalm 18:1-19
Wed – Aug 12	Job 36:24-33, 37:14-24	Matthew 8:23-27	Psalm 181:1-19
Thu – Aug 13	Isaiah 45:20-25	Revelation 15:1-4	Psalm 67
Fri – Aug 14	Isaiah 63:15-19	Acts 14:19-28	Psalm 67
Sat – Aug 15	Isaiah 56:1-5	Matthew 14:34-36	Psalm 67

Sunday Aug 16 – 11th Sunday after Pent: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8, Psalm 67, Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32, Matthew 15:10-21-28

Prayer of the Day: God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

Mon – Aug 17	2 Kings 5:1-14	Acts 15:15-21	Psalm 87
Tue – Aug 18	Isaiah 43:8-13	Romans 11:13-29	Psalm 87
Wed – Aug 19	Isaiah 66:18-23	Matthew 8:1-13	Psalm 87
Thu – Aug 20	Ezekiel 28:11-19	1 Corinthians 6:1-11	Psalm 138
Fri – Aug 21	Ezekiel 31:15-18	2 Corinthians 10:12-18	Psalm 138
Sat – Aug 22	Ezekiel 36:33-38	Matthew 16:5-12	Psalm 138

Sunday Aug 23 – 12th Sunday after Pent: Isaiah 51:1-6, Psalm 138, Romans 12:1-8, Matthew 16:13-20

Prayer of the Day: O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation & form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord, Amen.

Mon – Aug 24	1 Samuel 7:3-13	Romans 2:1-11	Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32
Tue – Aug 25	Deut. 32:18- 20, 28-39	Romans 11:33-36	Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32
Wed – Aug 26	Isaiah 28:14-22	Matthew 26:-13	Psalm 18:1-3, 20-32
Thu – Aug 27	Jeremiah 14:13-18	Ephesians 5:1-6	Psalm 26:1-8
Fri – Aug 28	Jeremiah 15:1-9	2 Thessalonians 2:7-12	Psalm 26:1-8
Sat – Aug 29	Jeremiah 15:10-14	Matthew 8:14-17	Psalm 26:1-8

Sunday Aug 30 – 13th Sunday after Pent: Jeremiah 15:15-21, Psalm 26:1-8, Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 16:21-28

Prayer of the Day: O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

Mon – Aug 31	2 Samuel 11:2-26	Revelation 3:1-6	Psalm 17
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AUGUST 2, 2020
HYMN OF THE WEEK
You Satisfy the Hungry Heart
WEEKLY MILESTONES

taking+ faith home

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 a dream you have for your future?
 - Tell or think about a time you had a dream that came true.
 - How do your dreams reflect your faith in Christ?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Isaiah 55:1-5.
 Feasting is a biblical image of God's providence and grace. In Matthew 14 we have Jesus feeding the masses, not just five thousand people, but five thousand men plus the women and children. It comes right after the beheading of John the Baptist at another feast, the banquet of King Herod. Just as Jesus' banquet is a far cry from other earthly feasts, so is God's invitation to eat and drink without payment unique to other economies we experience. Isaiah 55 includes a challenge to all who want glory and feasting: "Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?" (55:2). Isaiah gets to the heart of the problem of life: pursuing that which is not important, not essential. And now, ever since Jesus fed the masses, God has reached out to all people with the promise of true joy envisioned in a banquet feast that never ends. What is it that you want to pursue in life? Does your pursuit reflect the faith and joy of being invited to God's banquet? Why or why not?
Pray: **God of abundant joy, help us to remember and believe that your kingdom gives us a joy like no other through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

The crowds followed Jesus. Jesus "had compassion for them and cured their sick" (Matthew 14:14b). There are many organizations that are treating and researching cures for diseases. Think or talk about ways to support or donate to an organization that is doing this work.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

God's love and care for people is shown in the Bible with stories of meals and feasts. Invite friends or someone you may not know very well for a meal in your home. Begin the meal with a prayer and engage in caring conversations as you enjoy the meal together. After guests leave, take time to think about what you enjoyed the most as you prepared and hosted the meal. End your day with this or a similar prayer: **Lord, help me to find joy in your abundant care for us. Amen.**

AUGUST 9, 2020
HYMN OF THE WEEK
We Are Marching in the Light
WEEKLY MILESTONES

taking+ faith home

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:
- Would you use the word beautiful to describe feet? Why or why not?
 - Describe something you think is beautiful. What makes it beautiful?
 - The Apostle Paul quotes an Old Testament passage about someone who is beautiful because he or she brings good news. What is beautiful to you about the message of Christ?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Romans 10:5-15.
 Paul continues an intricate dance of balancing the covenant given to Abraham, Moses, and the larger Jewish community with the new covenant given in Jesus. Finally, it is the same God and the same promise: salvation is meant for all (v. 10). Therefore, our job is not to judge (vv. 6-7) but to proclaim the good news that Christ is the fulfillment of the law. That message only helps if it is heard (vv. 8 and 14). What is so beautiful is not really people's feet—perhaps the least attractive part of a person's body—but the person him/herself. People cannot receive this message of salvation without hearing. We are those sent to share good news with others. We are the beautiful souls not because of feet or noses or eyes, but because of the good news of Christ told to others. Who in your life is beautiful because of his or her sharing Christ with you?
Pray: **Living God, may we see the beauty of the gospel and the beauty of those who share your saving message with others through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Serving others reminds us of the breadth of the Kingdom of God and that our faith is personal but not private. Faith motivates us to serve the world in love. In what ways do you serve in your home, your congregation, and in the community?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Jesus died for us. That is how much God loves us. This is good news! "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). Trace your foot on a piece of paper. Write a list of ways you can use your feet to tell others about the good news of Jesus. On another piece of paper draw lips. Write a list of ways you can use your lips to tell others about the good news of Jesus. Keep your drawings as a visual reminder of the good news.

AUGUST 16, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

All Are Welcome

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:

- Think or tell about a time you went to or met someone from a foreign country.
- What do you learn by meeting people from different cultures?
- It is easy to overlook how God's grace and mercy is not just for ourselves but for all people. How can you extend kindness to someone of a culture that is foreign to you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 15:21-26.

The Canaanite woman is central to this story for many reasons. She is a woman and she is a foreigner, both good reasons for Jesus not to talk to her and especially not to address her plea before addressing the needs of the Jewish people, "the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (v. 24). This woman is also a critical figure because her plea for help changes Jesus' response to her (v. 28). It is not easy to understand how this woman seems to teach and change Jesus, but she does. The result, however, is clear: Jesus' ministry, like that of the God of the Old Testament (see Psalm 67) is for all the nations, not just the sons and daughters of Abraham. This story lifts up the essential mission of Jesus and the church of all generations. It is the Great Commission of Matthew 28:16-20. Directed by Jesus, we are to make disciples of all nations, not just our ethnic group, not just "our people," and especially not just our nation. With whom might Jesus be calling you to share God's love and mercy?

Pray: Generous God, help us to see the breadth and depth of your love for all people in the world through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

The words we say to others can sometimes be hurtful. In Matthew 15:11, Jesus is warning us to be careful of what you say, "It is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." Is there someone you know who needs to hear kind, caring words, rather than hurtful ones? Take time to say loving and encouraging words to that person by writing a note, calling, or sending an email.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The theme this week is, "God's saving work is for all people." Psalm 67 is a song of praise to God and a reminder of God's continual blessings on us. Write the words from Psalm 67:3 on a piece of paper and place it near your bedside so that when you rise and when you lie down, you can recite: "Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you."



MILESTONES
MINISTRY

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

AUGUST 23, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Send Me, Lord

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 are tempted to do that you know is not helpful or right?
- What influences a person to do something wrong?
- How is the kingdom of Jesus different from other powers that want to shape your life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 16:13-20.

To be conformed to the world (Romans 12:2) is to be shaped by the powers of domination in an attempt to influence—or even control—people's thoughts, actions, and loyalties. In Matthew 16 Jesus and his disciples are in Caesarea Philippi, a place where many gods of the ancient world were recognized and worshiped, fickle gods that were seen as ruling human life rather arbitrarily. Jesus as the "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (v. 16) will transform lives like the Canaanite woman and her daughter in Matthew 15. Jesus has the power to bind and to loosen lives (16:19) and Jesus intends to loosen lives from death to life, from sickness to health, from despair to hope, from broken relationships to a life of mutual forgiveness. From lives that are judged and condemned to lives that receive mercy. How does Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of the living God free your life to be a servant of mercy to others?

Pray: The Lord's Prayer.

SERVICE

In Romans 12:6-8, the Apostle Paul lists a number of gifts that God has given people to support the work of the church like serving, teaching, encouraging, giving generously, leading, and being compassionate. Make a list of gifts you have been given and can use to support the church in the world. The entire faith community (body of Christ) is needed to do God's work. Take action by using one or more of the gifts you listed to help people in your community or the larger world.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 138 is a song of thanksgiving and praise: "I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart" (v. 1a). Draw a heart on a piece of paper. Inside the heart write a list of things you are thankful for. Take the heart and put it in a visible place as a reminder to give thanks and praise for God's steadfast love and faithfulness.



MILESTONES
MINISTRY

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

AUGUST 30, 2020
HYMN OF THE WEEK
What Wondrous Love Is This
WEEKLY MILESTONES
taking+ faith home

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:

- Tell or think about a time when you or someone you know was in pain.
- Reflect on a time you felt someone's pain. What makes you take on someone else's pain?
- How does your faith in Christ help you when you are in pain?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 16:21-28

In an era where we can do so many things to avoid or stop the pain, it can be surprising that suffering is still part of life. It is part of the Christian life because Jesus shows us that the way of the cross—an excruciatingly painful way to die—gets at the heart of the Christian faith. Peter didn't get it, even if he knew Jesus was the Messiah. Peter had to be humbled and corrected. And we do, too. God shows the depth of love from the cross of Christ. We are invited to join the great movement of divine love by caring, suffering, and celebrating Christ's victory over sin, death, and evil. Part of that celebration is our openness to the pain of the world, the pain of others for the sake of love. It is also the path that allows us to see the kingdom of God at work. Why do you think suffering is an important aspect of the Christian faith?
Pray: Compassionate God, help us to see in suffering and death the very path of life and love through Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

Most people have someone in their life who is ill, declining in health, or in hospice care. It can be painful to experience the suffering of a loved one. Those serving in the role of caregiver can often times be exhausted and in need of a break. Do you know of someone for whom a visit, meal, or call may give them the break they need?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Jesus' time, the cross was about death. It is not easy to understand or talk about Jesus' death on the cross. The cross is a Christian symbol. It reminds us that Jesus is with us through easy and hard times. We see crosses in many places in our lives. As a follower of Jesus, notice the number of crosses you see in your home and in the community this week. Each time you see one, take a moment to pray: **Thank you Jesus for dying on the cross to save us.**



In addition to Taking Faith Home, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

+ THOUGHTS FROM PASTOR BRENDA

Greetings, Church.

My note to you this month is **short and sweet**, as worship preparations have now expanded to in-person options, and this Pastor of yours is hard at work! ☺ We shall attempt to do as many outdoor (and online) services as safely possible before the weather changes, and drives us back indoors. I pray that, through prudent and cautious measures, we keep ourselves and one another safe.

In the meantime, I would challenge EACH of you **to reach out to three people during the month of August**. Call them, e-mail them, text them, write them. The days can become long, family members haven't visited in months, and one can easily become lonely. Without regular worship gatherings, it's easy for folks to feel as though they have been forgotten. **PLEASE join me** in reaching out to our fellow members and friends of the congregations. Grab the directory (or call me if you need someone's number) and simply say hello. No need for an eloquent speech: just a friendly hello will go a LONG way!



Be sure to check-out the newly installed porch/railings at the Parsonage. No more worrying if the awning will fall down during heavy winds with supports as strong as these!

Even with Outdoor and Online Worship services, I'll still provide a **daily devotional** that you can find on either church's Facebook page. What started as a devotional practice with my Grandmother 20 years ago, now reaches across the nations, as folks find themselves tuning in for a moment of time in God's Word. Take a listen, share the Good News, and brighten someone's day with a quick hello. **Pr. Brenda**



Northern Great
Lakes Synod
www.nglsynod.org

MONTHLY JOINT NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2020

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



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Stephenson
P.O. Box 435
Stephenson, Michigan 49887

