



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
 E-mail: Soffice@gsslutheran.org

JOINT NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2020

Details for Outdoor Worship Services on Sundays

Two Options for Worship Services during the month of September:

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

We will gather for worship at **9:30 am** at the **LARGE**, covered **Pavilion** in **Stephenson** (accessible via Cedar St, off of Willow St) each Sunday during the month of **September**.

**PLEASE WEAR
A FACE MASK**



THANK YOU

- Plenty of room to safely, spread-out at **picnic tables** or bring your own comfy **chair**.
- **Amplification System** will be used.
- **Bathrooms** are available.
- **Masks** are to be worn at all times (and available on-site) and **hand-sanitizer** will be available.

Worship will include: Prayers, brief homily, songs (by Pr. Brenda only, not congregationally), and Holy Communion (served using individual packets, opened and disposed of by individual congregants. The wafer AND the juice are included in these packets.)



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, online or outdoors!



Fun and Interesting Classes for Adults Begin via Zoom in September 2020

www.nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation

The Northern Great Lakes Synod
is launching a new series of **classes**
for those who want to **grow**
in spirituality, faith, and knowledge.



In these challenging and uncertain times, our Synod is offering online classes this fall and winter. While discussions through computer screens are not ideal, online learning presents an opportunity to connect people from across the synod -- people who share a love of learning and have discovered that adult studies help them to grow in faith. “**Lifelong Faith Formation**” evolved from our Synod’s Lay School for Mission.

Classes will meet weekly for 60 to 90 minutes for four to eight weeks. A complete schedule of classes, times, and dates is available on the synod website along with the registration form.

Visit: www.nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation (or <http://bit.ly/NGLSLLFF>)

Classes offered this fall are:

- **Ecclesiastes Bible Study**
with Pastor Tommy Richter of Zion, Manistique
- **“FREEDOM”- A Study in Galatians**
with Reverend Thomas A. Skrenes, Bishop Emeritus
- **Introduction to Biblical Greek**
with Pastor Nicole Hanson-Lynn of Zion/Salem, Ironwood.
- **Bias in our Communities: Addressing Race in Rural America**
with Pastor Christina Forsythe of Porterfield/Beaver.

For more info, visit:

<http://bit.ly/NGLSLLFF>

or contact Sister Lori Ward
at: 615-519-1969

or e-mail her at:
lori.ward@nglsynod.org

Classes are **FREE**. “Greek” requires the purchase of the textbook *A Primer of Biblical Greek* by N. Clayton Croy. Materials are available for optional purchase for “Bias in our Communities.” Students will receive ZOOM links from their instructor.

This new effort is not driven by an end result such as graduation from a program. It is not a certification program to become a Licensed Lay Minister. “Lifelong Faith Formation” is designed for curious adults who want to become better equipped to serve the work of Christ in their congregations.



We trust in the comfort and hope of the Resurrection for the following families:

+Dave Koski+

Brother of Sharon Etelamaki

+Cheryl Bogdan+

Daughter-in-law of Steve & Gloria Bogdan

We continue to hold in prayer:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Keith Thoune | Tracy Klatt |
| Dean Gerue | Shirley Wangerin |
| Wayne Sundstrom | |
| Stephanie Walren | Tammy Parrett |
| Emily Christenson | Evelyn Gewerth |
| Christine Havelka | Karen Raether |
| Lewis Nicholson | Lorrie Stone |
| Robert & Macy Berzsenyi | |
| Denise Marineau | Lois Azelton |
| Caitlin Christophersen | David Kohrt |
| Connie Kendrick | Luann Q. Kiefer |
| Michelle Bouchard | Darcy Fournier |
| Bob Slight | Larry Pepin |
| Julee Nordin | 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 |
| Lee Scherer | Keith Salo |
| Steve Bogdan | Don Freis |
| Dan Etelamaki | Wally Etelamaki |

*Congratulations and blessings upon **Logan & Jessie (Pfeiffer) Erickson**, who were united in marriage on Saturday, August 15, 2020.*

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 | Lita Gill, Addison Light |
| 4 | Jessica Schultz |
| 5 | Jordan Crawford |
| 6 | Paul Francour |
| 7 | Gary Klatt Jr., Brian Mack |
| 8 | Lindsay Baumler, Jackie Hoof |
| 9 | Jack Wittgren |
| 12 | Keith Olson, Cindy Paul |
| 17 | Tracy Klatt |
| 18 | Tess Wagner |
| 19 | Crystal Salo |
| 21 | Pat Heiden |
| 24 | Audrey Anderson |
| 26 | Don Machalk III |
| 29 | Dave Christenson |

- Happy Anniversary!*
- | | |
|----|-----------------------------------------|
| 2 | Chuck & Rosalie Wade |
| 4 | Mike & Sharon Burie,
Gary & Sue Hess |
| 9 | Frank & Kathy Lesjack |
| 24 | Paul & Jan Sederquist |



2020 FALL FEST AUCTION



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!



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 HIGHLIGHTS - Gethsemane Fellowship Hall - August 25, 2020

- The **Minutes** from the four previous Joint Meetings - 5/28, 6/24, 7/7, and 7/28 - were all approved.

Pastor Brenda brought the Councils up to date concerning:

- **Confirmation** - 10 congregations in coordination with Fortune Lake Camp will be doing a Confirmation Camp. These will be half hour sessions with each congregation being responsible for the planning of one session.
- Pastor Brenda will be gone **September 13-16** for Continuing Education at The Spent Dandelion Theological Retreat Center in Two Harbors, Minnesota.
- Thoughts and insights into the handling of **church issues** from other pastors in our Conference were shared. Pastor Brenda also shared a letter from Bishop Finnegan concerning guidelines for worship indoors and outdoors, and an article from the Baptist News Global giving advice to congregants and pastors to consider during this time of high stress.


Discussion followed concerning each of these items.

- **September/FALL Worship:** Approval was given to continue with the outdoor worship through the month of September. Online worship will also be continued. The Joint Councils will meet September 22 to determine options for worship beginning in October, taking the weather into consideration.
- **Meeting dates set:** **St. Stephen's** Council will meet on September 8 at 6:00 pm, **Gethsemane** Council will meet on September 9 at 6:15 pm, **Joint Councils** will meet on September 22, 6:15 pm

Meeting was **adjourned** and **closed** with the Lord's Prayer at 7:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Klein

JOINT COUNCIL MEETING NOTES – Gethsemane Fellowship Hall – August 25, 2020, 6:15pm

Time	Item	Discussion/Person
6:15p	Hello & Opening Prayer	Pastor Brenda 
6:20p	Approval of May, June, July Minutes	Motion: Pete 2nd: Wendy Results: Pass
6:20-6:45p	Updates from Pastor Brenda <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirmation Camp 2. Continuing Education 3. Other 4. News Article from Baptist News Global: Article found here: https://bit.ly/PastorSword 5. Bishop Katherine's Letter (<i>printed on next page</i>) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Each congregation will host a zoom meeting weekly to cover curriculum, mentioned expectation of sermon notes 2. Pastor will attend a retreat center on these days, will notify us of coverage in her absence 3. Discussion of what other pastors are doing at their church, virtual to parking lot but most using caution, some holding off on Sunday school classes 4. Informative article on stress/struggles Pastors are facing during pandemic, need to show support for all 5. No in person worship if numbers continue to rise
6:45-7:10p	Discussion on September/Fall plans	Decided to hold September worship outside, weather permitting, will discuss October plans at September meetings, online service will continue
7:10-7:13p	Council Meetings	St. Stephen's: Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Gethsemane: Wed., Sept. 9, 2020 at 6:15 p.m. Joint Council: Wed., September 23, 2020, location TBD
7:13-7:14p	Close with the Lord's Prayer	All
7:15p	Adjournment	Motion: John S. 2nd: Kelly

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Francour

Dear people of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

July 31, 2020

Grace and peace to you in these glorious summer days! I hope you are finding renewal and refreshment and making time to get outside.

In the last 24 hours, three significant announcements have come from Governor Whitmer of Michigan, Governor Evers of Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Council of Churches. Today, I will try to offer some clarity as to what these announcements mean for inside in-person worship in our Northern Great Lakes Synod congregations, both in Michigan and Wisconsin.

Firstly, Governor Whitmer's Executive order can be found here: <http://bit.ly/MIGovLink>

- At first view, the "only 10 people or less" for inside gatherings is the most striking highlight. However, a closer read shows that Region 8, the Upper Peninsula, is not included in this order. Under Section 8c on page 6 of the document, gatherings are allowed inside for up to 25% capacity, with face masks and social distancing. However, if the numbers of Covid-19 cases are rising in your county, I recommend NO inside in-person worship until reported cases are flat or declining for at least two weeks, preferably three.

Secondly, Governor Evers' Executive order can be found here: <http://bit.ly/WILink>

- With cases spiking in Wisconsin, Governor Evers is doing what he can to keep people safe. What has become routine in Michigan may feel burdensome in Wisconsin. Please remember that masks and social distancing have been shown to reduce the spread of the virus. This is all about keeping your neighbor safe. While some may see it as a political issue, for us as Lutheran Christians, it is, at its core, about love of neighbor and protecting the most vulnerable among us. Again, if cases are spiking in your county, I recommend a pull back from inside in-person worship until cases are flat or declining for at least two weeks. Inside in-person worship can then resume, but only with face masks and social distancing.

Thirdly, the Wisconsin Council of Churches (WCC) issued an updated Returning to Worship Recommendations, and can be found here: <http://bit.ly/ReturnLink>

- I have appreciated WCC and their dissemination of solid, science-based advice. In this document, the WCC advocates for a complete pull back from in-person worship in all Wisconsin congregations until September when plans for in-person worship can be evaluated and considered. There are several reasons for this - the spiking cases and the exhaustion and decision-fatigue of pastors and leaders being two of those reasons. Again, if your county is experiencing an abundance of cases, do not meet for inside in-person worship. But if cases in your county are flat or declining for at least two weeks, then a plan for in-person worship and a timeline can be considered. If you are unsure, please err on the side of caution. The challenge, of course, is that things can change very rapidly. Councils and pastors would do well to have a plan for communicating last minute adjustments.

Other things that both Michigan and Wisconsin congregations can glean from this WCC Updated Recommendations is to be thinking ahead to Advent and Christmas. Prepare yourselves now, emotionally as well as practically, that our traditional observances and celebrations will have to look and feel differently. We continue to find new ways of doing things: staying connected, prayer and worship habits, devotional resources, Bible study and conversation, crafts and fellowship, Sunday school and youth group.

Understandably, we are sad not to be able to do what we enjoy so much. We can feel bereaved, disconnected, and our spirits heavy with loss. Our grief over not being able to gather, worship, fellowship, and observe our high holy days and traditions in the way we want is real. **But so is the virus.** This is our **Wilderness** time (original article found here: <http://bit.ly/WildernessLink>) We are being forged into a new people of faith even as God is close. The Spirit of Christ is with you and will not leave you to walk in the wilderness alone.

Together, we will do our best to meet the challenges ahead.

Yours in Christ, Rev. Katherine Finegan
Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod

SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Forgive Our Sins
As We Forgive*



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 felt badly treated by another individual or a group.
- What makes it hard to openly face conflict with someone?
- For Jesus and the church, we are to pursue others with love and grace. Does knowing this help you to resolve differences with others? Why or why not?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 18:15-20.

All relationships experience conflict, even in the church. Jesus is aware of this and lays out a plan of action: out of love, be direct. It is the way of life of the people of God announced by Paul in Romans 13:10: "Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law." Being right is not good enough. Having your own way is not good enough. Be loving, be merciful, and pursue what is right; face conflict through a personal conversation to resolve the issue. But if the person who has hurt you does not repent, this is not an excuse to treat them badly. Treat them as Jesus would treat a Gentle or tax collector. He pursued them with his love. Jesus is present in all our relationships, even the stressful ones (v. 20). We are to seek them out with love and mercy. When have you been wronged by the harsh treatment of another? Did you face it directly with the other person to resolve it? Did you treat them as Jesus would? Explain.

Pray: Lord Jesus, when I am with others, remind me that you are present strengthening us to love one another anew each day. Amen.

SERVICE



"Love your neighbor as yourself" (Romans 13:9b) sums up the commandments. Who is your neighbor? It may be the person next door or someone in the community. Loving others, even when they are different from you, fulfills the law and motivates us to action. How does knowing this motivate you to show love to a neighbor?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Next Sunday is the beginning of a new Christian education year for many congregations. Psalm 119 is a lovely text that promotes learning God's will and word. Pray for all teachers and students involved in Christian education and mention those you can by name. Conclude with: **Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. Amen.**



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

SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Healer of Our Every Ill



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 forgiveness mean to you? Give an example.
- Was there ever a time when you could not forgive someone? Explain.
- How is God's forgiveness a gift to you? to the church? to the world?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Matthew 18:21-35.

Jesus presents a very unreal story to make a very real point. In Jesus' day, each talent was worth more than 15 years of work. Therefore, one slave owed over 150,000 years of income while the other owed one hundred days of wages (a denarius was one day's wage). The differences are extreme to make the point that God's forgiveness of us is wildly out-of-this-world and wonderful. It leads the follower of Jesus Christ to sing or pray Psalm 103 that begins, "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name" (v. 1). A concrete way to praise God is to "forgive your brother or sister from your heart" (Matthew 18:35) and do so again and again (v. 22). Or, as Jesus suggests, do you want to consider the consequences of not showing a little forgiveness to others? That lack of forgiveness Jesus says, would destroy your life (vv. 34-35). How can you praise God today by forgiving someone who has offended or hurt you? How does this parable help bring joy to your soul?

Pray: Merciful God, give me faith to remember how kind and generous you are to me and to praise you by being kind and forgiving to others through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE



Genesis 50:15-21 is the story of Joseph forgiving his brothers for throwing him in a pit and selling him into slavery. Forgiving someone who has hurt you is not easy. Think of someone who needs your forgiveness. Pray for that person. Reflect on God's love and mercy shown through people like Joseph and write a note of forgiveness to that person.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Forgiveness is the theme this week in Bible readings, caring conversations, devotions, and service. Breaking a plate, saying something mean, and telling a lie are things we may not mean to do, but they happen. Think of a time when you needed to be forgiven. God forgives us again and again. Think about what this means to you. Pray the Lord's Prayer, pause as you pray, "forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us", then finish the prayer.



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

SEPTEMBER 20, 2020
HYMN OF THE WEEK

*God Created
Heaven and Earth*

taking+
faith
home

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 about or tell a story of how someone was kind to you.
- Has it ever been difficult for you to be kind to someone? What made it difficult?
- Is God's kindness to you a surprise or not? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Jonah 3:10-4:11.

Frankly, we don't really like God's justice. It's too supportive of people unlike us! Like Jonah, we don't want a God who is slow to anger and full of steadfast love for people we don't think deserve it, especially those we would consider our enemies. That's why Jonah ran away from God (v. 4:2). Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrians who had destroyed the northern kingdom of Israel in 722 BC. Now God told Jonah to preach repentance to the Ninevites. Jonah was afraid to do this because he knew of God's love and mercy, something he did not want showered upon his enemies. And Jonah was right; it happened, and it angered him. It's just like in Jesus' parable of the generous landowner (Matthew 20:1-16) where it seems so wrong for people who worked in the fields all day only to get the same wage as those who started at the end of the day. Is it easy or hard for you to accept God's justice where "the undeserving" receive the same generosity you receive? Explain.

Pray: **Gracious and merciful God, give me faith to love your generosity for all people, especially those who are different from me. In Jesus' name, amen.**

SERVICE

The story of the vineyard in Matthew 20:1-16 is about a generous owner who paid the laborers the same amount at the end of the day even if some worked harder and longer than others. Some of the laborers grumbled. The owner asked, "Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" (Matthew 20:15). In what ways are you generous to others with what belongs to you?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In Exodus 16:2-15 bread was provided from heaven. Prepare a meal that includes bread. Think or talk about Moses and the Israelites and how they had to learn to be patient and have faith in God to feed them daily as they traveled to the Promised Land. What does this mean for you? Before you eat, pray: **Lord, thank you for this bread you have given us to eat. Help us to never forget how you provide for us just as you did for the Israelites. Amen.**



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

SEPTEMBER 27, 2020
HYMN OF THE WEEK

*We Are All One in
Mission*

taking+
faith
home

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:

- Do you ask for help sometimes when making decisions? Why or why not?
- Is there a time when you asked for God's help in making a decision? If so, tell about it.
- How does reading the Bible and having conversations with other believers help guide your life?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Philippians 2:1-13.

The Apostle Paul speaks to the church at Philippi and encourages the people to live with others with humility (vv. 3-4). He uses Christ as our model for this way of life as Christ Jesus took on our human existence and "humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death" (v. 8). With this as a guide, Paul exhorts believers to pursue the Christian life because it matters to others, to the world, and to God. Knowing how hard it is to live this life faithfully, he states, "work out our salvation in fear and trembling" (v. 12b). But this is not a fear that prevents us from acting. It is actually a sense of awe and reverence that frees us to live and act because God is with us, behind and in front of us in both our actions and our very desire to do the will of God (v. 13). It can be overwhelming to wonder how to live as a Christian. Paul encourages us to go forth with humility to love others and trust God. Think of a situation that is hard for you to know what you should do. When this happens, pray to God for wisdom and faith to act with love and humility.

Pray: **God of justice and mercy, guide our days and our deeds in the peace of Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

In Philippians 2, Paul is asking us to imitate Jesus by being of the same mind and showing compassion, love, and humility to others. Showing interest in others by listening and praying for them is one way to be compassionate. Be mindful of listening closely to the conversations you have with others.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Lifting our hands is one way to show praise to God. In the Old Testament there are people (like Leah and Moses) who lift their hands in praise to God. This is an ancient pose of prayer and a motion used to open a person to receiving God's blessing. Lift your hands and pray daily this week: **To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust. Amen.** (Psalm 25:1-2a)



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.

I recently was gifted the opportunity to virtually attend the **Global Leadership Summit (GLS)**. While I had originally planned to participate in person as a part of my Continuing Education, alas, our current COVID pandemic had other plans for me. Instead of traveling to Illinois to attend the 2-day conference in-person, I found myself glued to yet another computer screen from **8:30a – 4:30p**, hoping the internet would cooperate all day. The GLS touts itself as:



“a two-day infusion of fresh ideas, actionable concepts, leadership principles, and heartfelt inspiration.”

WHOA. That’s a lot to promise – and what a delight to realize the GLS *delivered* on those promises! When the topics for the conference include phrases like: *“becoming more agile and inventive”* and *“leading through crisis and ever-changing new realities”* and *“leveraging science-based research to increase connection opportunities,”* this Pastor of yours was concerned it would be a bit too business-like for a ministry world that revolves around relationships. Much like I had to do as a music teacher at leadership conferences, I figured I’d have to **adapt** what I had learned to our world of faith and grace and mercy.

How wrong I was! To my great delight, the Summit was absolutely grounded in the Word, and the teachings and guidance of Christ! **EVERY. SINGLE. SPEAKER.** authentically pointed their listeners toward solid and inspiring stories in Scripture that highlighted their main points. Some **highlights**:

“Lead with confident uncertainty. We are most vulnerable when we are confident. Trust that the breath of the Spirit will indeed be there to lead you, as it was present for the Disciples.”
 Craig Groeschel (Pastor, team member of YouVersion Bible App)



“Lead with a servant’s heart. Work hard at building the culture. Project calm to your people, so that they continue to serve GOD, and not the Pastor.”
 Dick Devos (President & Co-Founder: Windcrest Group)

*“Remember, **YOUR** world is not **THE** world. A truth might not be **THE** truth. Your **ABSOLUTE** might just be an **ABSTRACT**.”*
 Bishop T. D. Jakes (Pastor, Author)

I kept both of our congregations in mind as I listened, coming away with pages of **notes** and **ideas** from these speakers of how we might build on our relational life together. **Continue to pray** for both me as your Shepherd, and our Council Leaders, as we put many of these global ideas and notions in faithful **action!**

Learning right alongside you,

Pr. Brenda

Dear ALL Congregants of Gethsemane and St. Stephen's:

Below is the **ZOOM** link and passcode information for our Walking Together event on **Thursday September 10 at 6:00 pm CT**. Council Members are strongly encouraged to participate even as **ALL** are welcome. Here is an **outline** of what our time together as the Menominee Valley Conference of the NGLS will look like:

- | | |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5 minutes | Welcome and opening prayer |
| 20 minutes | Dwelling in the Word with small groups |
| 25 minutes | Year of Discovery presentation with Q & A |
| 5 minutes | Lifelong Faith Formation presentation
with Q & A |
| 15 minutes | Breakout sessions of conversation |
| 10 minutes | Synod ministry overview |
| 5 minutes | Website Review and Facebook page |
| 5 minutes | Record "Peace be with you" for Synod-
wide Reformation Worship (for
conferences meeting before October 19) |
| | Closing Prayer if no conference meeting |
| 30 minutes | Conference meeting agenda if applicable |



I look forward to many of us being together on September 10!

**Yours in Christ,
Rev. Katherine Finegan, Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod**

Topic: **Walking Together Event: Conference 5 Menominee Valley – ZOOM Meeting**
Time: **September 10, 2020 6:00 pm CT / 7:00 pm ET**

Click the link below at 6pm CT to Join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82581319705?pwd=TlEzQkd0cGY4bGpsMXRQalR2N1k5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 825 8131 9705, Passcode: 738574



WANTED: BEDSHEETS (full, queen, king)

The Quilters of Gethsemane are looking for used/new bedsheets to use to complete their quilts. Making **Lutheran World Relief** Mission Quilts is a tangible way to express love to our neighbors in need. Quilts can be used as warm bedding, simple tents or floor coverings. Each one reflects God's loving presence in a world rife with suffering. Drop off on **Parsonage Porch** or call **Janet** at (906) 374-0138 to donate. **THANKS!**



DAILY DEVOTIONS

FROM THE REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY

Tue – Sept 1	2 Samuel 11:27b–12:15	Revelation 3:7-13	Psalm 17
Wed – Sept 2	Jeremiah 17:5-18	Matthew 12:22-32	Psalm 17
Thu – Sept 3	Ezekiel 24:1-14	2 Corinthians 12:11-21	Psalm 119:33-40
Fri – Sept 4	Ezekiel 24:15-27	Romans 10:15b-21	Psalm 119:33-40
Sat – Sept 5	Ezekiel 33:1-6	Matthew 23:29-36	Psalm 119:33-40

Sunday Sept 6 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost Ezekiel 33:7-11, Psalm 119:33-40, Rom. 13:8-14 Matt 18:15-20

Prayer of the Day: O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

Mon – Sept 7	Lev. 4:27-31; 5:14- 16	1 Peter 2:11-17	Psalm 119:65-72
Tue – Sept 8	Deuteronomy 17:2-13	Romans 13:1-7	Psalm 119:65-72
Wed – Sept 9	Leviticus 16:1-5, 20-28	Matthew 21:18-22	Psalm 119:65-72
Thu – Sept 10	Genesis 37:12-36	1 John 3:11-16	Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13
Fri – Sept 11	Genesis 41:53–42:17	Acts 7:9-16	Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13
Sat – Sept 12	Genesis 45:1-20	Matthew 6:7-15	Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

Sunday Sept 13 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost: Gen. 50:15-21, Ps 103:8-13, Rom. 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35

Prayer of the Day: O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

Mon – Sept 14	Genesis 48:8-22	Hebrews 11:23-29	Psalm 133
Tue – Sept 15	Genesis 49:29–50:14	Romans 14:13–15:2	Psalm 133
Wed – Sept 16	Genesis 50:22-26	Mark 11:20-25	Psalm 133
Thu – Sept 17	Nahum 1:1, 14–2:2	2 Corinthians 13:1-4	Psalm 145:1-8
Fri – Sept 18	Nahum 2:3-13	2 Corinthians 13:5-10	Psalm 145:1-8
Sat – Sept 19	Zephaniah 2:13-15	Matthew 19:23-30	Psalm 145:1-8

Sunday Sept 20 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost: Jonah 3:10-4:11, Psalm 145:1-8, Phil. 1:21-30, Matt 20:1-16

Prayer of the Day: Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

Mon – Sept 21	Genesis 27:1-29	Romans 16:1-6	Psalm 106:1-12
Tue – Sept 22	Genesis 28:10-17	Romans 16:17-20	Psalm 106:1-12
Wed – Sept 23	Isaiah 41:1-13	Matthew 18:1-5	Psalm 106:1-12
Thu – Sept 24	Ezekiel 12:17-28	James 4:11-16	Psalm 25:1-9
Fri – Sept 25	Ezekiel 18:5-18	Acts 13:32-41	Psalm 25:1-9
Sat – Sept 26	Ezekiel 18:19-24	Mark 11:27-33	Psalm 25:1-9

Sunday Sept 27 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32, Psalm 25:1-9, Phil. 2:1-13 Matt 21:23-32

Prayer of the Day: God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

Mon – Sept 28	Judges 14:1-20	Philippians 1:3-14	Psalm 28
Tue – Sept 29	Judges 16:1-22	Philippians 1:15-21	Psalm 28
Wed – Sept 30	Judges 16:23-31	Matthew 9:2-8	Psalm 28



Northern Great
Lakes Synod
www.nglsynod.org

2020 JOINT
NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER

*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

