



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 for May 2021

We have some **good news** to share with you: after much prayerful and data-based deliberation, the Councils of both Gethsemane and St. Stephen's Lutheran Church have decided to **re-open** for worship, **inside** our sanctuaries, beginning **Sunday, May 2nd**!

We are doing this because the data suggests that we can do so in relative **safety**. The metrics we are following as guidance show that our case numbers are flat and our community vaccination rate is ever-increasing. We strongly encourage everyone to get vaccinated whenever you are able. We will continue to exercise caution for the foreseeable future and know that our precautions can only be lessened when enough people are vaccinated.

While this news is exciting, there are some important notes:

- **First**, the rules listed on the next page **must be followed by everyone at all times, no exceptions**. If the rules cannot be followed, then we will revert back to online only.
- **Second**, if the number of cases in Menominee County **spike**, then we will revert back to **online only**.

Also, if you do **NOT** feel comfortable returning inside for any or all of these activities, **that is OK**. We encourage you to return only when you feel comfortable doing so. Pr. Brenda is **always available** to talk and pray with you regarding your concerns, and would welcome a visit with you via the phone or (socially distanced), in-person.



In keeping with our commitment to health and safety, we will continue to **require masks**, and make **sanitizer** available for all worshipers. While food and refreshments will **still have to wait** for a future time, we are glad to be able to **welcome** our community back to the Sanctuary on May 2, with the intention to remain open for Sanctuary worship from now on, as long as health conditions allow. **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!**

Our Worship Schedule

- Worship will move **INDOORS ONLY** beginning **Sunday: May 2, 2021**

We will maintain the Schedule we **WOULD** have followed in 2020:

- St. Stephen's will worship at 9:00a. On September 12th, 2021, they switch to 10:30a.
- Gethsemane will worship at 10:30a. On September 12th, 2021, they switch to 9:00a.

Sunday Morning Worship

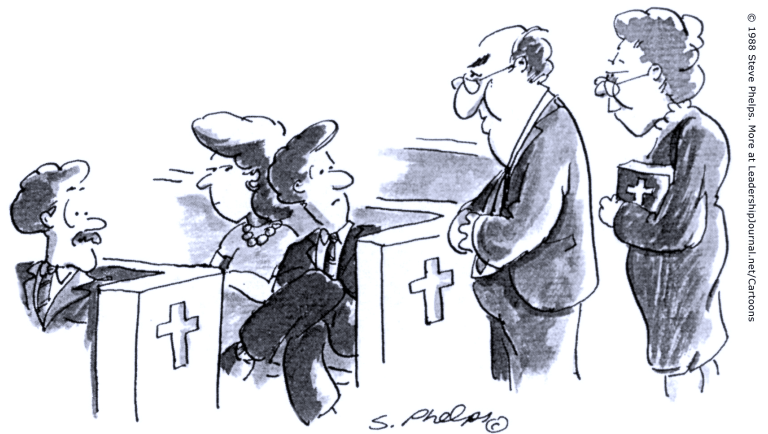
- Buildings will open 15 minutes prior to Worship. (comfortability/safety of all)
- 8:45a for 9a worship, 10:15a for 10:30a worship.

Ushers

- Will **Greet** and **Seat** you in the designated areas. Yes, designated areas. SOMEDAY, you will be able to choose your own seats. That day is not quite here, and we deeply appreciate your cooperation.

Come. Sit. Worship.

- They will collect your **names** and **phone number** for Contact Tracing in the event of someone testing positive.
- They will also help to **Dismiss** the congregation at the conclusion of the service, guiding you directly outdoors.
- Offerings will be collected in a **basket** as you enter



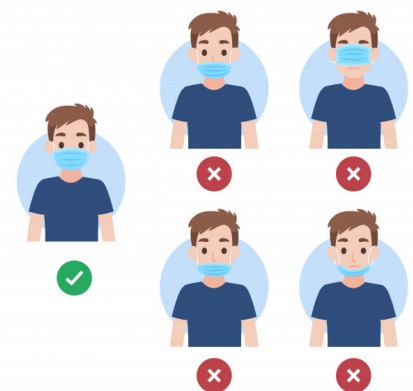
The whole church watched with nervous anticipation as the visitors sat where the Martins have sat for 42 years.

Masks

- Properly worn over **BOTH** nose and mouth
- **Required** for the entire time inside the building

Physical Distancing

- Required between different households.
- **No** handshaking, hugging, fist bumps, or any other hand contact between different households.



Congregational Singing

- There will be **no** congregational **singing** during inside worship at this time. We know this is a disappointing guideline AND one that will keep our congregants safe.
- Congregational **responses** will be spoken quietly.

Holy Communion

- Will be distributed in pre-packaged juice and wafer sets upon entering the Sanctuary

Fellowship Time

- **OUTDOORS ONLY** after worship. No gathering in our Fellowship Halls just yet.
- **No** food & drinks will be *provided*, though you are welcome to bring your own individual drink/snack for outdoor consumption, if you wish.



Building Procedures

Office Re-Opening

- Our Offices will slowly begin to re-open for regular business hours. The pandemic created different **rhythms** of life for our employees, and we appreciate your patience and kindness as we work toward coming back together as a team.
- For the first few weeks, **Angel** (G) and **Denise** (St.) will post the **hours** they will be available on the **Front Door** of the churches. As time goes on, Office Hours will become more consistent, with times published in upcoming newsletters/bulletins.
- For the health and safety of our Secretaries, know that **masks** must be properly in place at **ALL** times upon entering the building. **NO exceptions.** This is a hard and fast rule. **PLEASE** do not bend, twist, or find ways around this rule.

Cleaning

- A deep-cleaning of both Sanctuaries and Offices has been done to prep for re-opening.
- Weekly Cleaning/Sanitizing of Sanctuaries, Offices, and Bathrooms will occur.



Building Closure

- If a congregant who attended worship tests **positive**, that congregant is expected to call Pastor Brenda right away at 720.989.8218. Folks, it could happen. It's a strange thing, this virus, so we need to protect one another with accurate and up-to-date information. Please know that your anonymity and privacy will be protected.
- Both worship sites will then be closed for **2 weeks**, as Pastor Brenda has been with both congregations.
- Church secretaries will **call** all attendees to notify them of the situation, and info will be updated on our Website, Facebook, Answering Machine, and Doors.
- We will move to **Online** worship only until it is safe to return to in-person worship.



Ministry Options

Online Worship

- We were fortunate to welcome a **regular group of online viewers** during the Pandemic. They were supportive monetarily as well as through prayer and notes.
- We're still asking ourselves: ***What might this ministry look like in the future?***

Faith Formation

- Our Youth programs will launch again in Fall of 2021.
- Our Adult Bible Studies/Classes will also launch again in Fall of 2021.

Where We Can Help One Another

If we learned anything in 2020, it was that planning out TOO far in advance was futile. Thus, our *regular*, Volunteer Schedule cannot be completed until we operate on a more consistent, in-person basis.

IN THE MEANTIME.....we need Volunteers to be:

- **Ushers** (Greet, Collect Info, Seat, Dismiss)
- **Computer Operators** (click, click, click)
- **Lectors** (Reading God's Holy Word)



PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CHURCH OFFICE (E-MAILS ON FRONT PAGE) **TO VOLUNTEER!**



Over time, and as the situation dictates, we will make additional changes in returning to reach a more “normal” way of operating. For now, we are taking these first steps with caution, but also with **hopeful optimism**. We appreciate your continued cooperation and patience as we continue caring for the most vulnerable among us.

The pandemic is not over, but is slowly getting better, thus our **optimism**. We know that you want to return to normal as soon as possible and that this time has been very difficult for everyone. **Please** continue to be patient so that we can take these steps properly and not have to go backwards.

If you have questions throughout this transition time, please contact a member of your Church Council or Pastor Brenda. Please watch our social media outlets and your email for updated information as we move through the next several months.

Thank you for your continued care for one another, grace, prayer, and generosity.

The Church Council of Gethsemane Lutheran Church

Wendy Hanson | Wendy Christophersen | Sandy Gill | Deb Kruhmin | Judi Freis
Carol Klein | Mary Jo Mahaffy | Janet Mullard | Ruth Thoune

The Church Council of St. Stephen’s Lutheran Church

Harlan Anderson | Cheri Leiphart | Keith Olson
Al Raether | Kami Salo | John Starzynski

Rev. Brenda L. Greenwald

Pastor of Gethsemane and St. Stephen’s Lutheran Churches



- 2 Nancy Freis
- 3 Wally Majkrzak
- 5 Al Raether
- 6 Nancy Diehm
- 7 Kathy Lesjack, Keith Thoun
- 11 Kami Salo
- 12 Shirley Olson
- 14 Stephen Kohrt
- 15 Logan Parrett, Karen Raether
- 19 Katie Dubey, Carol Lindner

- 20 Ryan Baumler
- 21 Lyle Revall
- 22 Joan Burie, Doreen Grinsteiner
- 23 Karron Wittgren
- 24 Katherine Majkrzak
- 26 Judy Anderson, Samuel Salo
- 27 Caitlin Christopherson
- 28 Julie Tanguay
- 29 Dorothy Peretto, Janet Voss
- 31 Abby Anderson



*Jay Chapple, Trish Dams
Thomas Dutkavich
Jared Jurmu,
Brent Jurmu
Julie Tanguay*



- 16 Jim and Karen Parrish
- 19 Keith and Ruth Thoun
- 20 Roger and Doreen Grinsteiner
- 22 Wally and Wendy Majkrzak

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

- + **Krista Hendricks** + (*Daughter-in-Law of Diana and Bob Jarnutowski*)
- + **Jeffrey Grundstrom** + (*Son of Karen and Bill Grundstrom*)

We continue to hold in prayer:

Becca Merk	Bethany Gearheart	Brian Raether	Caitlin Christophersen
Christine Havelka	Connie Kendrick	Crystal Salo	Dan Etelamaki
David Kohrt	Deanna Thill	Dennis Paul	Delores Erickson
Denise Marineau	Dorothy Klein-Wassink	Emily Christenson	Evelyn Gewerth
Gene Wangerin	Howie Fredrickson	Jim Gill	Jim Wenger
Karen Raether	Keith Thoun	Kevin Havelka	Lewis Nicholson
Lois Azelton	Lorrie Stone	Luann Q. Kiefer	Macy Berszenyi
Michelle Bouchard	Mike Lubore	Mike McCarthy	Rob Boe
Robert Berszenyi	Sarah Hess	Sheila Konkel	Shirley Wangerin
Stephanie Walren	Steve Anderson	Tammy Parrett	Tom Wenger
Tony Gill	Tracy Klatt	Wayne Sundstrom	Wendy Hanson

*Thank you for holding the friends and families of our Congregants in your daily prayers.
Corrections? Additions? Please contact your respective Church Office. Thanks!*

Daily Bible Readings - Year B

Year B focuses on the Gospel of Mark with more selections from the Gospel of John than any other year. The second, New Testament, readings are from 1 and 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, James and Hebrews.

Sat — May 1 Amos 9:7-15 Mark 4:30-32 Psalm 22:25-31

Sun. May 2 - 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31, 1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8

Prayer of the Day: *O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Mon — May 3 Isaiah 5:1-7 Galatians 5:16-26 Psalm 80

Tue — May 4 Isaiah 32:9-20 James 3:17-18 Psalm 80

Wed — May 5 Isaiah 65:17-25 John 14:18-31 Psalm 80

Thu — May 6 Isaiah 49:5-6 Acts 10:1-34 Psalm 98

Fri — May 7 Isaiah 42:5-9 Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 98

Sat — May 8 Deut. 32:44-47 Mark 10:42-45 Psalm 98

Sun. May 9 — 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48, Psalm 98, 1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17

Prayer of the Day: *O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Mon — May 10 Deut. 7:1-11 1 Timothy 6:11-12 Psalm 93

Tue — May 11 Deut. 11:1-17 1 Timothy 6:13-16 Psalm 93

Wed — May 12 Deut. 11:18-21 Mark 16:19-20 Psalm 93



Thu. May 13 — Ascension of Our Lord

Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47, Ephesians 1:15-23, Luke 24:44-53

Prayer of the Day: *Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Fri — May 14 Exodus 24:15-18 Revelation 1:9-18 Psalm 47

Sat — May 15 Deut. 34:1-7 John 16:4-11 Psalm 47

Sun. May 16 — 7TH Sunday of Easter*Acts 1:15-17, 21-26, Psalm 1, 1 John 5:9-13, John 17:6-19*

Prayer of the Day: *Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Mon — May 17	Exodus 28:29-38	Philippians 1:3-11	Psalm 115
Tue — May 18	Numbers 8:5-22	Titus 1:1-9	Psalm 115
Wed — May 19	Ezra 9:5-15	John 16:16-24	Psalm 115
Thu — May 20	Genesis 2:4b-7	1 Cor. 15:42b-49	Psalm 33:12-22
Fri — May 21	Job 37:1-13	1 Cor. 15:50-57	Psalm 33:12-22
Sat — May 22	Exodus 15:6-11	John 7:37-39	Psalm 33:12-22

**Sun. May 23 — Day of Pentecost***Ez 37:1-14, Ps 104:24-34, 35b, Acts 2:1-21, John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15*

Prayer of the Day: *Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Mon — May 24	Joel 2:18-29	1 Cor. 12:4-11	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Tue — May 25	Genesis 11:1-9	1 Cor. 12:12-27	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Wed — May 26	Ezekiel 37:1-14	John 20:19-23	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Thu — May 27	Isaiah 1:1-4, 16-20	Romans 8:1-8	Psalm 29
Fri — May 28	Isaiah 2:1-5	Romans 8:9-11	Psalm 29
Sat — May 29	Isaiah 5:15-24	John 15:18-20, 26-27	Psalm 29

**Sun. May 30 — Holy Trinity Sunday***Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 29, Romans 8:12-17, John 3:1-17*

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 — May 31	Numbers 9:15-23	Revelation 4:1-8	Psalm 20
--------------	-----------------	------------------	----------

PASTORAL MUSINGS FROM PR. BRENDA

Dear Church,

With all of the recent baptisms in our congregations (Praise GOD!), I was asked how one determines the **Baptismal Verse** for the child about to be splashed in the holy waters. Always one to begin with the end in mind (*thank you, Stephen Covey, and your 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* book), I wanted these little ones to eventually be able to **connect** their Baptism to their Confirmation.



As I tell the kids and their parents, Confirmation is really better known as **“Affirmation of Baptism”** - where the young adults get to claim the promises spoken over them at their Baptisms. They publicly **CONFIRM** and **AFFIRM** these beautiful promises, and strive to live into them as they continue to grow and mature in their faith formation journeys.

While I didn’t know our **Confirmands** at the time of *THEIR* Baptisms, I had long ago asked them to be living with a special **Bible verse** that provided them with assurance and encouragement. I’m proud to say that the verses they selected reflect a beautiful array of **faith** and **strength**, capturing *THEIR* relationship to the Lord:

Child of God	Confirmation Verse
Morgan Ann Bergquist	<i>But surely, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life. Psalm 54:4</i>
Chelsea Lillian Christophersen	<i>Sing to the Lord a new song; his praise from the end of the earth! Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants. Isaiah 42:10</i>
Sara Ann Havelka	<i>Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” John 13:7</i>
Samuel James Salo	<i>The God who has girded me with strength has opened wide my path. 2 Samuel 22:33</i>



Back to baptisms: Having the joy of witnessing **BOTH** ends of the spectrum before me (*with the little ones getting blessed and the older ones often stressed*) I wanted to gift them with a verse that could **live with them from Baptism to Confirmation**. Something that encouraged them, gave them strength...reminded them that they were **BELOVED!**

While I've never had the joy of naming my own child, I could **FEEL** the pressure of selecting a Bible verse for a Child of God! I decided I needed some sort of reliable **system** for all of the children and baptisms over which I would have the honor of presiding. I finally discerned that I would go with some kind of connection to their given **name**, and then link that connection to a verse or two of **Scripture**. Amen for holy inspiration!

Name	Meaning	Baptismal Verse	Biblical Connection
Evelynn Rose-Ann Jessel	giver of life	Psalm 36:7, 9 <i>God, your love is so precious! You protect people in the shadow of your wings...You are the giver of life. Your light lets us enjoy life.</i>	Derived from the first woman God created.
Lillian Ann Keyzers	a flowering plant	Matthew 5:8 <i>Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.</i>	Lily is a symbol of purity and resurrection. This plant grew on the shores of the Sea of Galilee and in the valleys of Palestine.
Easton Bradley Rasner	eastern; settlement or town	Isaiah 60:1 <i>Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.</i>	The east and sunrise depict God's light and glory.
Berkley Kate Norton	birch; wood, meadow	Isaiah 44:3-4 <i>I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. They will spring up like grass in a meadow, like poplar trees by flowing streams.</i>	The meadow was a place for the Spirit to rest and reflect.



What **JOY** I found, praying over these little ones, already looking forward to the years ahead. And how I **ask YOU to pray for them**, too: we ALL made those **holy** commitments to walk with these children and their families. **EACH** of you plays an important role in the faith formation of Evelynn, Lily, Easton, and Berkley...and so many others in our congregations.

Together, let us make the sign of the cross + on our OWN foreheads, remembering our baptisms.

Journeying with you in faith,

Pr. Brenda





Signs of Spring, inside and out! A sneak peek at the set-up for Parking Lot Worship: Water for the font, candle to remind us of the Holy Spirit, flowers for inspiration, the Holy Meal in a tiny container, headphones and a radio transmitter to broadcast the service...and coffee for the Pastor!



Forever Plaid: Nick and Nancy Diehm share a smile (behind those masks) while ushering for Sunday Worship.



Welcome +Berkley Kate Norton, Child of God! Pictured with her family: Andrea Grinsteiner (Mom), Justin Norton (Dad), and Cameron (Proud, Big Sis)



***These young adults Affirmed their Baptism (Confirmation) on Sunday, April 11, 2021.
+Morgan Ann Bergquist,
+Samuel James Salo,
+Chelsea Lillian Christophersen,
and +Sara Ann Havelka.***



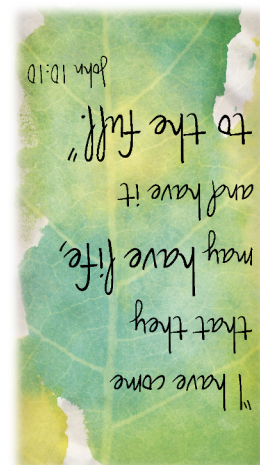
Northern Great
Lakes Synod
www.nglsynod.org

2021 JOINT NEWSLETTER

MAY

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

IMPORTANT RE-OPENING INFORMATION INSIDE



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

