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*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.*



Monthly Newsletter – September 2021



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* Indoor Worship Continues *
 * **Masks Required** + Available *
 September 5: 10:30am worship
 Sept 12 onward: 9:00am worship

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The annual **Time Swap** for worship services is upon us!
*Keep breathing, dear Church - you CAN make it to
 worship at 9am for a year!*



Our new Service times begin **ON Sunday, September 12:** Gethsemane will gather for Worship at **9a** (St. Stephen's will gather for worship at **10:30a**). This is in effect until September **2022**. Unfortunately, with COVID cases on the rise, we cannot offer Fellowship time just yet.

September Birthday & Anniversaries

- 1 Leta Gill , Addison Light
- 2 Becky Freis
- 4 Jessica Schultz
- 8 Jackie Hoof
- 9 Jack Wittgren
- 12 Cindy Paul
- 18 Tess Wagner



- 4 Mike & Sharon Burie

We continue to hold in prayer:

THIS LIST ISN'T THE MOST ACCURATE. PLEASE USE THE LATEST LIST FROM the ST. ST. Bulletin last week.

Art Kaliszewski	Bethany Gearhart	Caitlin Christophersen	Dan Etelamaki
David Kohrt	Dean Kauthen	Deanna Thill	Delores Erickson
Delores Gill	Denise Marineau	Dennis, Paul	Dorothy Klein-Wassink
Dorothy Peretto	Emily Christenson	Evelyn Gewerth	Gene Wangerin
James Dutkavich	Jim Gill	Jim Wenger	Karen Raether
Keith Thoune	Kenny Kline	Kevin Havelka	Lewis Nicholson
Logan Parrett	Lois Azelton	Lorrie Stone	Luann Q. Kiefer
Macy Berszenyi	Michelle Beauchard	Mike Lubore	Mike McCarthy
Mike Pfeiffer	Penny Nehls	Rob Boe	Robert Berszenyi
Sandy Baumler	Sarah Hess	Sheila Konkel	Stephanie Wallgren



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

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

FALL FEST at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp



FORTUNE LAKE
A place of grace in Crystal Falls, MI

*Fortune Lake and the Sisters of the Cloth
are pleased to announce that*

Fall Fest is ON for 2021!

The date of the event is **Saturday, October 2**, and we are planning for a **hybrid** in-person event with a live auction as well as a virtual silent auction.

Our 2021 Fall Fest will include the following:

- A live in-person **auction** of a small lot of carefully selected hand-made quilts
- A **Country Store** featuring smaller hand-made items to be purchased on site
- A **draffle** (drawing-raffle) for opportunities to win unique prizes and gifts
- A **silent** virtual auction featuring a large selection of homemade quilts and other hand-crafted items, which will begin September 22 and conclude October 2 and is open to anyone, the world over!
- **Tentative**: brunch and bake sale, to be determined at a later date



THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE QUILTERS, CRAFTERS, AND VOLUNTEERS WHO MAKE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE! Please mark your calendars and make plans to participate in the ways you see fit! More information will be shared as details are worked out.

FAITH FORMATION from the NGL Synod



This page needs to include the latest course information, as found on the NGLS website. It now includes dates and times, etc. Make it a full page.

Fall Semester Is Upon Us! The Northern Great Lakes Synod offers a diverse series of online classes for adults who want to increase their knowledge and understanding of the Bible, church history, Lutheran Theology, contemporary Christian issues, and more. Launched in 2020, Lifelong Faith Formation evolved from the synod's Lay School for Mission. Here's a preview of the upcoming schedule:

- ***Holy Communion Post-Pandemic: What, When, Where, Who, and Why*** with Bishop Katherine Finegan
- ***Walking Together: Companionship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania*** with Luanne and Bishop Emeritus Tom Skrenes
- ***Biblical Greek or Hebrew*** with Pastor Nicole Hanson-Lynn
- ***The Book of Ezekiel*** with Pastor Tommy Richter
- ***An Introduction to Family Systems Thinking*** (one session) with Pastor Jim Duehring.
- **Book study of *Friedman's Fables*** with Pastor Jim Duehring
- An ongoing **Bible study**

Visit the main Synod website for updates: nglsynod.org.

In the Garden - Pastoral Musings

Dear Church,

For the second year in a row, I had the joy and privilege to attend the **Global Leadership Summit (GLS)**, a 2-day, televised event where speakers and experts from around the globe impart both inspirational words and morsels of truth. I attended this year's event with my mentor, **Dr. Linda Jacobs**, my choral instructor from High School, and life-long friend. Each presentation is meant to be heard by leaders of all shapes and sizes: we sat near Church leaders, accountants, business leaders, and retired folks. I share with you a few **highlights**:



Rev. Craig Groeschel, Pastor and founder of GLS:

Leaders have to be willing to deal with a little **PUC**:

- **PAIN**: What painful decisions are we willing to endure today, and how will they help us grow in the future?
- **UNFORSEEN CHALLENGES/OPPORTUNITIES**: How have you planned for unforeseen challenges and/or unexpected opportunities?
- **CONTROL**: Are you focused on control or are you focused on growth?

Michelle Poler, Founder and author of "Hello Fears"

Authenticity is our MOST valuable asset. Jesus knew JUST who He was, and was comfortable in His own skin. While fear can be GOOD (keeps us safe), BRAVERY is even more exciting. Ask yourself: "What's the **BEST** that could happen? What am I willing to get **uncomfortable** for?"

Jamie Kern Lima, Author and Founder of IT Cosmetics

Listen to that still, small voice of God - it's talking to you. Is God telling you **NO** or are you being told to **KNOW**. The voice might be small, but your visions, your dreams can still be God-sized!

Honestly, I could fill **all** of the pages of this newsletter from the wisdom shared from this annual summit (*and perhaps I'll include a part 2 in next month's newsletter*). Most of my attention was focused on how the Councils and I will continue to lead during this ongoing **Pandemic**: enduring our fair share of PUC, imagining the **BEST** that could happen, and listening to God's still, small voice as we proceed forward.

Pray for your leaders, dear church.

Pastor Brenda

ADULT Faith Formation Classes - Fall 2021

at Gethsemane/St. Stephen's

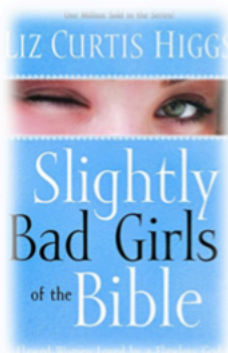
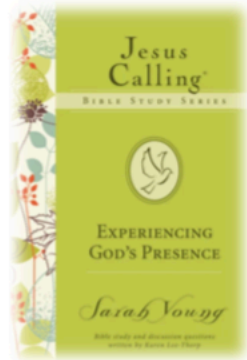
Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12

Pastor Brenda is **JOYFULLY HOPING** that we might be able to resume Faith Formation Classes this Fall. (Pandemic-pending, of course.) Please take some time to **pray** over the **THREE** options, and see how **YOU** might be called to participate. (*Dates and Times TBD*)

Jesus Calling: Experiencing God's Presence

by Sarah Young, Karen Lee-Thorp
8 Sessions - FOR ANYONE

DESCRIPTION: Life has a way of taking the life out of us. In *Experiencing God's Presence*, author Sarah Young encourages you to lay down your cares just spend time each day with your heavenly Father. As you follow the Lord's instruction to "*be still, and know that I am God*" (Psalm 46:10), you will encounter God's peace, be filled with God's strength, gain a new perspective on your situation, and experience the full life that only God can provide.



Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible: Flawed Women Loved by a Flawless God

by Liz Curtis Higgs
8 Sessions - FOR **WOMEN** ONLY

DESCRIPTION: In *Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible*, Liz Curtis Higgs combines contemporary fiction with a verse-by-verse commentary exploring the lives of a few Old Testament women. Far from evil, yet slightly bad, these women from the book of Genesis stubbed their toes along the rocky path of righteousness. Sound familiar? These ancient sisters aren't a whole lot different from us. Laced with humor and built on solid research, this book will bring you to the realization that God loves you just the way you are. Flaws and all!

Dying Well: Gift, Choice, Funeral, Grief

4 Sessions - FOR ANYONE
FULL, COURSE DESCRIPTION on the **NEXT** page of this newsletter.

If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord.
So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. Romans 14:8

“Dying Well: Gift, Choice, Funeral, Grief”

You are invited to join Pastor Brenda this Fall as we explore four, unique aspects of both living and dying well.

Session 1 - The Gift of Life

Explore the fascinating and restorative world of Organ and Tissue Donation. Pr. Brenda’s time as a hospital Chaplain revealed how powerful these donations can be to people waiting for this unique expression of hope, and the comfort of being able to gift such a donation.

Session 2 – The Gift of Choices

Making end-of-life decisions during a time of illness or grief can be stressful and confusing. Do my loved ones know my wishes? Is this what Mom would have wanted? Let us name our fears and express our concerns together, as we face this God-given mystery of death, all the while remembering the confident hope in the Gospel’s promise of eternal life.

Session 3 – Crafting a Funeral

We’ll spend some time understanding the marks of a Christian funeral, a service that is an occasion for thanksgiving and the proclamation of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. While the ministry of the funeral is for those who are yet living, we will explore certain components that can personalize the experience to reflect your life as a whole.

Session 4 – Essential Touchstones of Grief

The journey of grief is both normal and necessary, yet it can also be quite complex. The work of Dr. Alan Wolfelt will guide our final session, as we understand both our grief, and how to find hope in healing our hearts.



Ruth Thoune
Treasurer



Ruth Thoune
Treasurer



Your Name Here
Our Next Treasurer!

After years (and years and years) of dedicated work as our Church Treasurer, Ruth Thoune is **retiring** from the position in early 2022.

A TREASURED POSITION

Ruth has kindly agreed to work side-by-side with our NEXT Treasurer, ensuring a smooth transition. Ruth is the best person to ask about the ins and outs of this job, and can be reached at: RThoune2000@hotmail.com

NO previous Treasury experience is necessary – and we will walk with you through it all! Please prayerfully consider filling this much-needed position in ministry.

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.

Wed — Sep. 1	Deuteronomy 4:21-40	Mark 7:9-23	Psalm 106:1-6, 13-23, 47-48
Thu — Sep. 2	Isaiah 30:27-33	Romans 2:1-11	Psalm 146
Fri — Sep. 3	Isaiah 32:1-8	Romans 2:12-16	Psalm 146
Sat — Sep. 4	Isaiah 33:1-9	Matthew 15:21-31	Psalm 146

Sun. Sep. 5 - 15th Sun. after Pentecost Isa 35:4-7, Psalm 146, Jas 2:1-10 14-17, Mark 7:24-37

Prayer of the Day: Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

Mon — Sep. 6	Joshua 6:1-21	Hebrews 11:29—12:2	Isaiah 38:10-20
Tue — Sep. 7	Joshua 8:1-23	Hebrews 12:3-13	Isaiah 38:10-20
Wed — Sep. 8	Judges 15:9-20	Matthew 17:14-21	Isaiah 38:10-20
Thu — Sep. 9	Joshua 2:1-14	Hebrews 11:17-22	Psalm 116:1-9
Fri — Sep. 10	Joshua 2:15-24	James 2:17-26	Psalm 116:1-9
Sat — Sep. 11	Joshua 6:22-27	Matthew 21:23-32	Psalm 116:1-9



Lyle and Lincoln were given Commemorative Cubes to celebrate their big day: one recorded the details of the day (date, time, location), and one was a Prayer Cube they could roll with their family at home. Each side of the cube included a different prayer prompt. **Remember: faith is CAUGHT more than it is TAUGHT!**

They were also given an age-appropriate Bible so they can continue to read about God's blessings while at home.



Sun. Sep. 12 - 16th Sunday after Pentecost Isa 50:4-9, Psalm 116:1-9, Jas 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-38

Prayer of the Day: *O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

Mon — Sep. 13	1 Kings 13:1-10	Romans 3:9-20	Psalm 119:169-176
Tue — Sep. 14	1 Kings 13:11-25	Colossians 3:1-11	Psalm 119:169-176
Wed — Sep. 15	Isaiah 10:12-20	John 7:25-36	Psalm 119:169-176
Thu — Sep. 16	Judges 6:1-10	1 Corinthians 2:1-5	Psalm 54
Fri — Sep. 17	1 Kings 22:24-40	Romans 11:25-32	Psalm 54
Sat — Sep. 18	2 Kings 17:5-18	Matthew 23:29-39	Psalm 54

Sun. Sep. 19 - 17th Sunday after Pentecost Jer 11:18-20, Psalm 54, Jas 3:13 -4:3, 7-8 Mark 9:30-37

Prayer of the Day: *O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

Mon — Sep. 20	2 Kings 5:1-14	James 4:8-17	Psalm 139:1-18
Tue — Sep. 21	2 Kings 11:21—12:16	James 5:1-6	Psalm 139:1-18
Wed — Sep. 22	Jeremiah 1:4-10	John 8:21-38	Psalm 139:1-18
Thu — Sep. 23	Exodus 18:13-27	Acts 4:13-31	Psalm 19:7-14
Fri — Sep. 24	Deuteronomy 1:1-18	Acts 12:20-25	Psalm 19:7-14
Sat — Sep. 25	Deuteronomy 27:1-10	Matthew 5:13-20	Psalm 19:7-14

Sun. Sep. 26 -18th Sunday after Pentecost

Nu 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29, Ps 19:7-14, Ja 5:13-20, Mk 9:38-50

Prayer of the Day: *Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

Mon — Sep. 27	Zechariah 6:9-15	1 Peter 1:3-9	Psalm 5
Tue — Sep. 28	Zechariah 8:18-23	1 John 2:18-25	Psalm 5
Wed — Sep. 29	Zechariah 10:1-12	Matthew 18:6-9	Psalm 5
Thu — Sep. 30	Genesis 20:1-18	Galatians 3:23-29	Psalm 8



God's Beauty!

"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork." Psalm 19:1



Cousins enjoy sneaking a peek into the Scripture of the Day with Pr. Brenda.
"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."
Matthew 19:14

Our upright piano found a new home with a local Piano tuner/technician, after repairs to it would prove too costly. We give thanks for its over 40+ years of faithful melodies!