



## St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

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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



## Inside this Issue...

- \* Indoor Worship Continues \*
- \* Masks Required/Available \*
- \* 9:00am Sunday, Sept. 5th \*
- \*Worship Time Swap, Sunday,  
Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> 10:30am\*

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### Recap for this month's Worship Services...

Sunday, Sept 5: St. Stephen's (9a), Gethsemane (10:30a)  
Sunday, Sept 12 **onward**: Gethsemane (9a), St. Stephen's (10:30a)





- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Addison Light   | 19 Crystal Salo     |
| 5 Jordan Crawford | 21 Pat Heiden       |
| 6 Paul Francour   | 24 Audrey Anderson  |
| 8 Lindsay Baumler | 26 Don Machalk III  |
| 12 Keith Olson    | 29 Dave Christenson |
| 17 Tracy Klatt    |                     |

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



- |                         |
|-------------------------|
| 2 Chuck & Rosalie Wade  |
| 4 Gary & Sue Hess       |
| 9 Frank & Kathy Lesjack |

## ***We continue to hold in prayer:***

***The hope and comfort of the Resurrection are with the families of both:  
+Brian Raether+ (son of Al and Karen Raether) and +Shirley Wangerin+***

Art Kaliszewski	Pastor Brenda	Caitlin Christophersen	Dan Etelamaki
David Kohrt	Dean Kauthen	Deanna Thill	Delores Erickson
Delores Gill	Dennis Paul	Denise Marineau	Dorothy Klein-Wassink
Dorothy Peretto	Emily Christenson	Evelyn Gewerth	Gene Wangerin
James Dutkavich	Jim Gill	Jim Wenger	Karen Raether
Keith Thoun	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	Pat Heiden	Penny Nehls	Rob Boe
Robert Berszenyi	Sandy Baumler	Sarah Hess	Sheila Konkel
Stephanie Wallgren	Sue Skowronski	Tammy Parrett	Tom Kuntze
Tom Wenger	Tracy Klatt	Wayne Sundstrom	Wendy Gravelle
Wendy Hanson	Wendy Majkrzak		

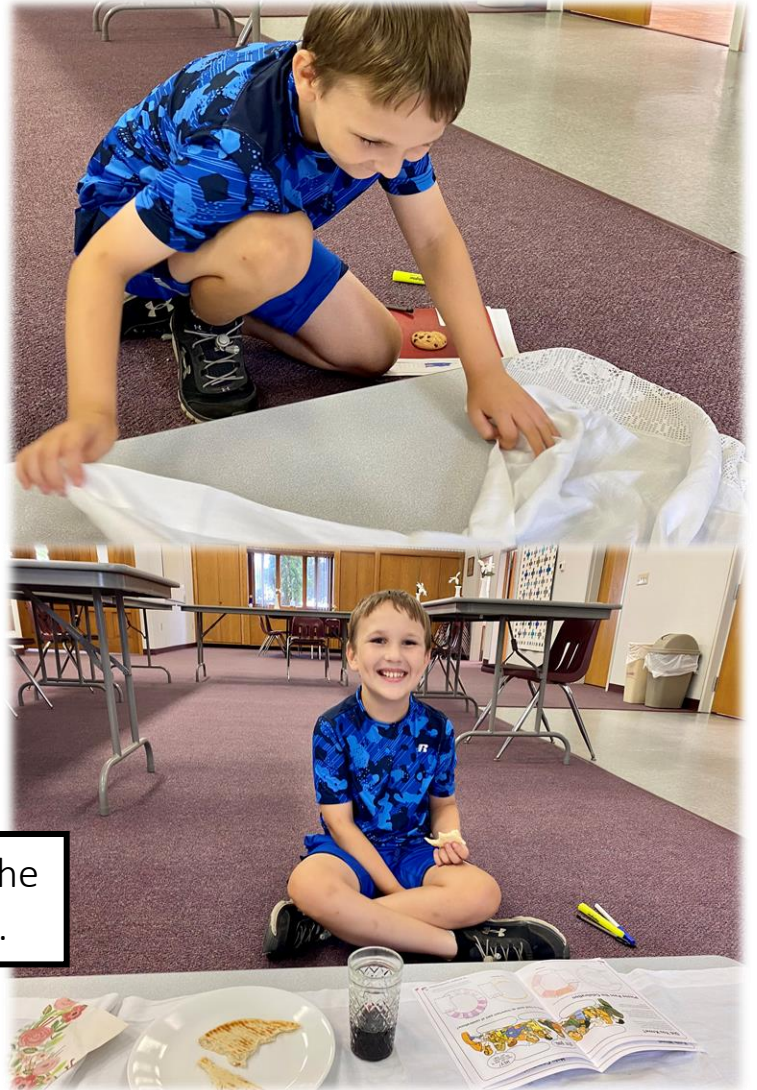
*Thank you for holding the friends and families of our Congregants in your daily prayers.  
Corrections? Additions? Please contact the Church Office. Thanks!*



We welcomed  
**Shaw Salo**  
to the Lord's Table as he  
celebrated his  
First Communion.



Shaw celebrated his tasty  
meal with his family,  
including his Aunt, and  
Godmother, Kami Salo.



Digging into the Scripture as he read about the Last Supper.

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



## Pastoral Musings from Pr. Brenda

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 (it keeps us safe), BRAVERY is even more exciting. Think to yourself: "What's the BEST thing 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 that is talking to you. Is God telling you NO or is God telling you to KNOW. The voice of God 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**

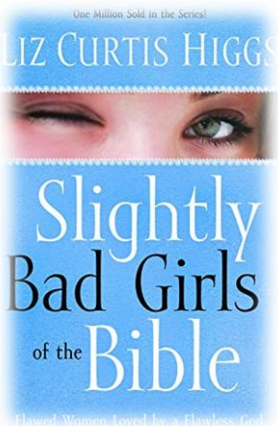
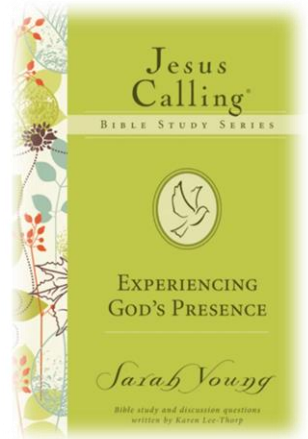
***Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12***

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

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.

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## 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	Psalms 106:1-6, 13-23, 47-48
Thu — Sep. 2	Isaiah 30:27-33	Romans 2:1-11	Psalms 146
Fri — Sep. 3	Isaiah 32:1-8	Romans 2:12-16	Psalms 146
Sat — Sep. 4	Isaiah 33:1-9	Matthew 15:21-31	Psalms 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	Psalms 116:1-9
Fri — Sep. 10	Joshua 2:15-24	James 2:17-26	Psalms 116:1-9
Sat — Sep. 11	Joshua 6:22-27	Matthew 21:23-32	Psalms 116:1-9

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

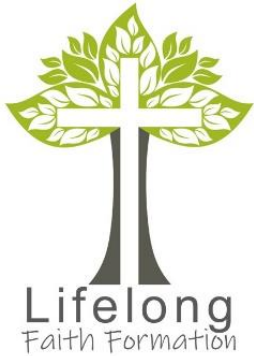
Num 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29, Psalm 19:7-14, Jas 5:13-20, Mark 9:38-50

**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



St. Stephen's Next Pastor?  
Colton Greenwald (age 3 and Pr. Brenda's nephew)  
wasn't shy about picking up the microphone and  
singing his little heart out to the Lord!



## Fun and Interesting Classes for Adults begin in September via Zoom

[www.nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation](http://www.nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation)

The Northern Great Lakes Synod offers a variety of classes for people who want to grow in spirituality, faith, and knowledge.

**Registration deadline: September 13, 2021**

Lifelong Faith Formation classes are now open for registration on the website of the Northern Great Lakes Synod. New this fall, some offerings are meeting only once, twice, or four times. Another new option, one study will gather twice a month instead of once a week. Learn more! Visit the website for more information and to register by the September 13 deadline. Classes are free of charge, though some recommend or require the purchase of materials. Instructors will send Zoom links to students prior to the first session.

- **Biblemania! Reading Through Some of the 66 Books of Food for the Soul** with Susan Anderson, Jeff Henquinet and Pastor Christina Forsythe; meeting on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month beginning on September 14, at 5:00 CT/6:00 p.m. ET.
- **Ezekiel Bible Study** with Pastor Tommy Richter of Zion, Manistique meeting on Wednesdays, September 16–November 4 at 6:00 p.m. CT/7:00 ET.
- **Intermediate Biblical Greek** (for people who previously studied Greek) with Pastor Nicole Hanson-Lynn of Zion/Salem, Ironwood, meeting on Sundays, September 19- November 21, at 6:00 p.m. CT/7:00 ET.
- **Walking Together: Companionship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania** with Luanne and Bishop Emeritus Thomas Skrenes, Northern Great Lakes Synod, meeting on Thursdays, September 30–November 4 at 4:00 p.m. CT/5:00 p.m. ET.
- **An Introduction to Family Systems Thinking** with Pastor Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop, Northern Great Lakes Synod, meeting on one Thursday, September 23, 6:00–7:30 p.m. CT/7:00–8:30 p.m. ET.
- **Book Study of *Friedman’s Fables* (by Rabbi Ed Friedman): “Metaphors for Family Systems Thinking”** with Pastor Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop, Northern Great Lakes Synod, meeting on Saturdays, October 2 - November 6 (four sessions) at 10 a.m. CT/11 a.m. ET.
- **Holy Communion Post-Pandemic: What, When, Where, Who, and Why** with Bishop Katherine Finegan, Northern Great Lakes Synod, meeting on two Mondays, October 11–18, 6:00 – 7:30pm CT/7:00–8:30 ET.

**For more information visit**

[www.nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation](http://www.nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation) or contact

**Deacon Lori Ward at 615-519-1969 or [lori.ward@nglsynod.org](mailto:lori.ward@nglsynod.org).**



SEPTEMBER 5, 2021  
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

takingt  
faith  
home

*God's love breaks down boundaries.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 7:24-37	Jesus heals the Gentiles
Monday	Isaiah 35:4-7a	Return of the exiled
Tuesday	James 2:1-17	Faith without works is dead
Wednesday	Hebrews 13:1-9	Service that pleases God
Thursday	Leviticus 19:33-37	Living a holy life
Friday	Ephesians 2:11-22	One in Christ
Saturday	Psalms 146	Praise for God's help
Sunday	Mark 8:27-38	Taking up the cross

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*“If you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, ‘Have a seat here, please,’ while to the one who is poor you say, ‘Stand there,’ or ‘Sit at my feet,’ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? James 2:3-4 (NRSV)*

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**  
Almighty God, we thank you that your mercy triumphs over judgment and your love leads us to care for all people through Christ Jesus. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**  
For the food that we eat and the food that we share, give us, O Lord, thankful hearts that show care. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**  
May the Lord God bless you with an open heart to receive and to give love through Christ Jesus our Savior.



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SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

**HYMN OF THE WEEK**

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

takingt  
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:

- What does it feel like to be left out of a group or not selected for a team?
- How do you react when you see someone being excluded from a group?
- Jesus showed love even to strangers. How would you describe the way you treat strangers?

**DEVOTIONS**

Read: Mark 7:24-37.

Jesus shows uncharacteristic rejection of someone in need. The Synagogue woman asks for help, but she is not Jewish. She is a foreigner, and Jesus suggests he came for the children of Israel, not those outside of Judea and Galilee. However, perhaps he is speaking the voice of the early church that is likewise wondering what are the proper boundaries for the mission field of the church. The answer: Gentiles—therefore, all people—are part of God's arena of care and redemption through Christ. It is time for all ears, tongues, and hearts to be opened. God's power of love and forgiveness is so awesome that it knows no boundaries. Thanks be to God! God's compassion is present for all of us, stranger and friend alike. When have you reached out to a stranger with the love of God?

**Pray:** Loving God, just as you reach out to us with your grace and forgiveness, give us hearts to reach out to others that all may know your care through Christ Jesus. Amen.

**SERVICE**

James 2 warns against worshipping communities showing partiality. Many congregations look very homogeneous. They attract people who look, act, and think like one another. Some of this is due to local contexts, but some of it is due to a lack of warmth and initiative taken toward new people. Who is someone who could use your warmth and care to help them feel welcome in your congregation?

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

Welcoming others with the peace of Christ has been part of the Christian tradition for two thousand years. Look up the sign language for peace. Teach it to others. As a way to practice reaching out to others with hope and love, you can greet others in your home, neighborhood, school, and work with these words: "The peace of the Lord be with you."



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



Northern Great  
Lakes Synod  
[www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org)

2021 MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER

*This Monthly Newsletter covers information and happenings  
for the Congregation of Gethsemane Lutheran Church.*



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

September

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