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Gethsemane 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 – November 2021

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November 2021 Worship Schedule

Date	Time	Location
Sunday, Nov 7	10:00a	Tune-In (Parking Lot Worship) at St. Stephen's
Sunday, Nov 14	10:00a	Tune-In (Parking Lot Worship) at St. Stephen's
Sunday, Nov 21	10:00a	Tune-In (Parking Lot Worship) at St. Stephen's
Thurs, Nov 25	Online	Online Thanksgiving Devotion
Sunday, Nov 28	10:00a	Tune-In (Parking Lot Worship) at St. Stephen's



Tune In – Worship via your Car Radios
10am • All of November • At St. Stephen's
TUNE IN to radio station 89.1 FM

Timeline of a Decision - A Note from Pastor Brenda

These last 19 months or so have been saturated with a combination of **decisions** and **prayers**. The course of a Pandemic is **anything** but predictable, and, alas, we find ourselves in another **upswing** of local cases of COVID-19. Here's how this last **decision** of November Worship in the parking lot panned out:



-
- October 20** Latest, local COVID data collected from (1) CDC, our Synod-recommended (2) COVID-Act Now website, and (3) Bridge Michigan - the 3 sources from which we have historically shaped our worship decisions during COVID.
-
- October 20** St. Stephen's Council Meeting, 6pm
Latest, local COVID data shared.
Conversations about Outdoor or Indoor Worship; time change.
-
- October 21** Gethsemane Council Meeting, 6pm
Latest COVID data shared.
Conversations about Outdoor or Indoor Worship.
-
- October 22** Additional Data regarding the worship practices of local churches shared with all 16 members of our 2 Councils.
Final Vote on whether to worship OUTDOORS or INDOORS for November 2021 was requested via e-mail.
-
- October 26** Final phone conversations made to acquire the vote of every, single Council Member (16) from both Congregations.
Final Tally: 10 members voted to worship Outdoors.
6 members voted to worship Indoors.
Worship Time adjusted to allow the day to warm-up a bit.
Final decision regarding November 2021 worship made:
November Worship will be Outdoors at St. Stephen's at 10am.
-
- October 27** Worship Decision & Process communicated via Newsletter
-
- November 3** Both Councils will meet for their Annual Joint Council Meeting.
Conversation regarding December 2021 Worship to be held.
-



Jay Chapple, Trish Dams
Thomas Dutkavich,
Jared Jurmu, Brent Jurmu,
and Jordan Baril

- 1 Brian Panske
- 20 David Kraus
- 24 Sandy Beardsley



- 7 Jim & Tena Roubal
Bob & Diana Jarnutowski

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

We continue to hold in prayer:

*The hope and comfort of the Resurrection are with the family of **+Alex Fox+**
(Cousin of Alisha Stage)*

Art Kaliszewski	Avery Hayward	Caitlin Christophersen	Dan Etelamaki
David Kohrt	Dean Kauthen	Deanna Thill	Delores Erickson
Delores Gill	Denise Marineau	Dennis Paul	Dorothy Peretto
Emily Christenson	Evelyn Gewerth	Gene Wangerin	James Dutkavich
Jim Gill	Jim Wenger	Joan Hofer	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	Miles Sorenson	Pat Heiden	Penny Nehls
Richard Lesperance	Rob Boe	Robert Berszenyi	Sandy Baumler
Sarah Hess	Sheila Konkel	Stephanie Wallgren	Sue Skowronski
Tammy Parrett	Tom Kuntze	Tom Wenger	Tracy Klatt
Wally Majkrzak	Wayne Sundstrom	Wendy Gravelle	Wendy Hanson

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.

Mon — Nov. 1	Deuteronomy 6:10-25	Romans 12:17-21; 13:8-10	Psalms 51
Tue — Nov. 2	Deuteronomy 28:58— 29:1	Acts 7:17-29	Psalms 51
Wed — Nov. 3	Micah 6:1-8 J	John 13:31-35	Psalms 51
Thu — Nov. 4	Numbers 36:1-13 R	Romans 5:6-11	Psalms 146
Fri — Nov. 5	Deuteronomy 15:1-11	Hebrews 9:15-24	Psalms 146
Sat — Nov. 6	Deuteronomy 24:17-22	Mark 11:12-14, 20-24	Psalms 146

Sun. Nov. 7 — Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day: *O God, you show forth your almighty power chiefly by reaching out to us in mercy. Grant us the fullness of your grace, strengthen our trust in your promises, and bring all the world to share in the treasures that come through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*

Mon — Nov. 8	Ruth 1:1-22 1	Timothy 5:1-8	Psalms 94
Tue — Nov. 9	Ruth 3:14—4:6 1	Timothy 5:9-16	Psalms 94
Wed — Nov. 10	Ruth 4:7-22	Luke 4:16-30	Psalms 94
Thu — Nov. 11	Daniel 4:4-18 1	Timothy 6:11-21	Psalms 16
Fri — Nov. 12	Daniel 4:19-27	Colossians 2:6-15	Psalms 16
Sat — Nov. 13	Daniel 4:28-37	Mark 12:1-12	Psalms 16

Sun. Nov. 14 — Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Daniel 12:1-3 Psalms 16 (9), Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25, Mark 13:1-8

Prayer of the Day: *Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*

Mon — Nov. 15	Daniel 8:1-14	Hebrews 10:26-31	Psalms 13
Tue — Nov. 16	Daniel 8:15-27	Hebrews 10:32-39	Psalms 13
Wed — Nov. 17	Zechariah 12:1—13:1	Mark 13:9-23	Psalms 13
Thu — Nov. 18	Ezekiel 28:1-10	Acts 7:54—8:1a	Psalms 93
Fri — Nov. 19	Ezekiel 28:20-26 1	Corinthians 15:20-28	Psalms 93
Sat — Nov. 20	Daniel 7:1-8, 15-18	John 3:31-36	Psalms 93

Daily Bible Readings ... continued

Sun. Nov. 21 — Christ the King Sunday - Last Sunday after Pentecost

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 Psalm 93 (2), Revelation 1:4b-8, John 18:33-37

Prayer of the Day: *Almighty and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Mon — Nov. 22	Daniel 7:19-27	Revelation 11:1-14	Psalm 76
Tue — Nov. 23	Ezekiel 29:1-12	Revelation 11:15-19	Psalm 76
Wed — Nov. 24	Ezekiel 30:20-26	John 16:25-33	Psalm 76

Thu. Nov. 25 — Day of Thanksgiving

Deut 8:7-18, Psalm 65, 2 Cor 9:6-15, Luke 17:11-19

Prayer of the Day: *Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day.*

By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Praise to you, O Lord, for you have nourished us from youth and you give food to all living things. Fill our hearts with joy and gladness and provide for all our needs, that we may abound in every good work, through Jesus Christ our Lord. To him, with you and the Holy Spirit be glory, honor, might, majesty and dominion, forever and ever. Amen.



Fri — Nov 26	Nehemiah 9:16-25	1 Thess 5:12-22	Psalm 25:1-10
Sat — Nov 27	Nehemiah 9:26-31	Luke 21:20-24	Psalm 25:1-10

Sun. Nov. 28 — First Sunday of Advent

Jer 33:14-16, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Thess 3:9-13, Luke 21:25-36

Prayer of the Day: *Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

Mon — Nov 29	Numbers 17:1-11 2	Peter 3:1-18	Psalm 90
Tue — Nov 30	2 Samuel 7:18-29	Revelation 22:12-16	Psalm 90

The Church Council of Gethsemane Lutheran Church

Minutes from Council Meeting on Thursday, October 21, 2021

PRESENT: Judi Freis, Sandy Gill, Wendy Hanson, Carol Klein, Janet Mullard, Ruth Thoune

ABSENT: Wendy Christophersen, Deb Kruhmin, Mary Jo Mahaffy

- ** Council approved, with regret, the transfer of membership of Joan Burie to Community Lutheran, Wausaukee, WI; Council welcomed the transfer of membership to Gethsemane of Rose Klatt from St. Stephen's.
- ** Property: it was decided to leave the sumac on the parsonage property as the quote received was too high; Attic storage/cleaning will be done Jan/Feb 2022
- ** The search is on for someone willing to replace Ruth Thoune as treasurer - if you would feel like this is an area in which you could serve, please contact Pastor Brenda or any member of the Council. Ruth has willingly fulfilled this position for many, many years but now feels it is time to step back. She will train and help out any individual for as long as is needed.
- ** Council approved a Pastoral Performance Review document with a review to be scheduled annually by a committee of 3.
- ** As a part of Pastor Brenda's report, she updated the Council on the happenings at the Food Pantry. November is Gethsemane's month to work at the Pantry on Saturday mornings - "thank you" to Carol Lindner for lining up those workers! Pastor Brenda also noted that the Pantry is in dire need of sugar, flour, and hygiene products; the Lion's Club has paid off the yearly Milk bill at Gary's; and, Gary's will again be processing venison for the Food Pantry!
- ** The Fall Joint Council meeting has been scheduled for Nov 3, 6 pm at St. Stephen's. The Gethsemane Council will meet November 18 at 6 pm.

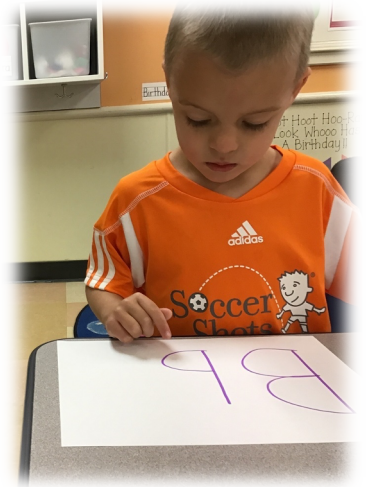
Respectfully submitted by Carol Klein, Council Secretary

Pastoral Musings

by Rev. Brenda Greenwald

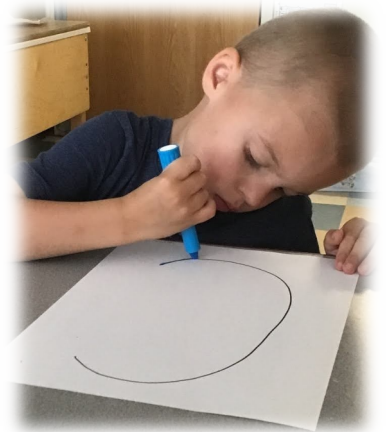
Dear Church,

It's **b**een a while since I've regaled you with a tale of this **b**rilliant **b**oy, the **b**eautiful offspring of my **b**rother, **B**rad. Colton, my 4 year old nephew, is **b**usy practicing his letters (*on this day, the letter **B***) at his daycare in Colorado Springs. Not yet in **b**ig-**b**oy preschool, this **b**eloved lad's already prepping for a **b**ustling life ahead.



The concentration level of **f** this tyke **b**affles us all - he diligently traces out the curves and lines of **f** his letter **f**amilies. It made me stop and think: when's the last time **w**e exercised such uninterrupted **f**ocus on a task? Imagine the **f**aithful **f**ruits we'd yield when turning to a **f**amiliar story inside one of **f** our **f**avorite Bibles, and thought**f**fully, *deliberately* tracing the lines of **f** the story, be it the heroic **e**fforts of Queen Esther, or the caring **f**riendship of **f** Naomi and Ruth.

When **C**olton prepares to trace a letter, there are no other thoughts or **a**ctivities to distract him from his goal: he aims to **c**onnect his pencil (*or his pen, or his favorite - a marker!*) to the paper, and **s**uccessfully **c**aptures the letter. They say a **C**hild shall lead them...what if we let *this* **c**hild **l**ead **u**s to a distraction-free environment, where we **c**an take a moment or two each **d**ay to **c**onnect - not with paper, but with the God of letters, the God of **c**are, and the God of Love.



Tracing the path alongside you all,

Fr. Brenda

NOVEMBER 7, 2021
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Soon and Very Soon

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 or talk about someone you loved who has died.
- Why do you think it is important to take time to remember loved ones?
- What special person or persons in your life do you want to remember on All Saint's Day? Explain.

DEVOTIONS

Read: Revelation 21:1-16a.

We live in the era of the reality of global pandemics. Whether it is COVID-19, some other global virus, the news of natural disasters, civil wars, or other tragedies, we are faced with the reality of death in ways we often try to avoid. All Saints Day is one of those times to face death intentionally in a community of faith. The biblical promise is a new heaven and earth that is brought to us. We don't need to escape this world; God promises to join us. Verse 3 states, *"And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God.'" That promise has already begun to happen through Jesus Christ, the Word that became flesh and still dwells among us through the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ. Death forces us to address human limitations and what our own future holds. Our future is held by the God who comes to conquer death and give us a new heaven and earth where death and tears will be no more. This is trustworthy and true. What comfort and hope do you find in knowing this?*

Pray: God of our present and our future, while we grieve the death of loved ones and reflect on our own mortality, help us to remember and trust that you are with us and promise new life in Christ. Amen.

SERVICE

Think about someone who is grieving the loss of a loved one at this time. Are there ways you can reach out to help them as they mourn? Perhaps sending a sympathy card, delivering a meal, or including them in prayers? How will you let them know you care?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

All Saints Day is a time to give thanks for those we have known and loved over the years. Take time this week to think or talk about loved ones who have died recently or long ago as you look at pictures of them (if available). Light a candle for each of the people. Then pray: **God of hope, thank you for those you have given us to know and to love. Thank you for the life of [names] and for the new life they have in you forever through Christ Jesus. Amen.**



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

NOVEMBER 14, 2021
HYMN OF THE WEEK
Hymn of Promise

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 or tell about a time when you or someone you know needed protection.
- What do you do and who do you turn to when you feel you need to be protected?
- Psalm 16 gives praise to God for being our great protector. What does that mean to you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 13:1-10.

The Gospel of Mark was written shortly after the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem by Roman soldiers in 70 A.D. It is easy to imagine that the people wondered if all hope was gone following that jarring event. Had God forsaken the people once and for all? Was this the end of time? Was Christ coming back soon? During times of national or spiritual crisis, it is easy to wonder about such questions, follow after some conspiracy theory, or follow another voice that sounds like the second coming of Christ. Jesus says, in essence, do not be misled, do not make your own predictions about the end. Our task is simple: know in your highs and lows that you are loved and protected by God; give thanks for your neighbors and serve them with joy. Trust God and Christ's reign. During difficult times, how can you show your trust in God?

Pray: God of the universe, when we experience personal or social disasters, help us to keep our eyes on you and speak with confidence the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SERVICE

With the advent of social media, many false messages and hopes are offered as true. Such messaging and propaganda can raise fears and sow divisions among people. Serve your neighbor by resisting extreme messages and social anxiety. Speak words of trust in God that calm one's soul and offer hope and peace to others.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalm 16:7 says, *"I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me."* When we read or listen to God's Word at the end of the day, our hearts and minds are filled with thoughts that carry us through the night. Even as we sleep God's Spirit is at work, ministering to us and leading us. This week, take time to read or listen to God's Word before you go to sleep. For children, use a storybook Bible. After reading, say this blessing: **May the Lord make you lie down in safety and may you sleep in peace.** (Psalm 4:8)



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

NOVEMBER 21, 2021

HYMN OF THE WEEK

The King of Glory Comes

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:

- How can power be used for good? How can it be used for bad?
- If you had unlimited power, how would you use it to change the world?
- How do you think Christ's power and rule look different than the power seen in earthly governments?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 18:33-38a.

The good news of Jesus Christ is not about escapism as some kind of running away from the world that God created. We are reminded of this from the opening chapter of John: "And the Word became flesh and lived among us" (John 1:14a). The living Word reveals the power and glory of God that is filled with "grace and truth" (John 1:14b). In chapter 18 Jesus distinguishes between God's grace and truth that lead with love and mercy and the rule of bullies who demean and control others with violence. That is the Roman "peace" that occupied territories like Judea through governors like Pilate who served under Emperor Tiberius. No, Jesus' reign "is not from this world" (v. 36). As followers of Jesus, we engage with creation and our neighbor with a power of a different kind. It is a power that blesses, heals, and makes new through the cross of Christ. It is a power that through a death perpetrated at the hands of the powers from "this world" put Jesus to death and shows itself to be powerless through the humility and weakness of the Son of God. This is the one who came to serve and give us the everlasting power of divine love. Where do you see the good news of Christ's reign happening in the world today?

Pray: **Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for your reign that is filled with divine power as it is filled with grace and truth through Jesus Christ, the one who came to set us free. Amen.**

SERVICE

Service to others is filled with humility and love; it is people helping one another. The new church year begins next Sunday. As this church year ends, think of the ministries that have taken place over the past year and who has been responsible for them: worship, music, Sunday school, youth group, Bible studies and more. How can you show appreciation and thanks for those who have served over the past church year?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The season of Advent begins next Sunday. Begin to plan for your home observance of Advent. Think or talk about the traditions you have established in your home over the years. One common Advent tradition is having an Advent calendar. Another is the Advent wreath. If you have not had a tradition in the past, consider beginning one this year as part of your faith journey in your home.

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

NOVEMBER 25, 2021

HYMN FOR

THANKSGIVING DAY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

taking faith home

THANKSGIVING DAY 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 are you thankful for?
- How does a thankful heart impact your health and the well-being of others?
- How do you show and express thanks to God? How might this influence others around you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Psalm 126.

This psalm expresses the joy of the Israelites coming home after exile in Babylon more than five hundred years before the birth of Christ. Those who returned were "like those who dream" (v. 1). It does not always happen that our dreams come true, but when a life-changing and positive circumstance happens, it is worth expressing joy. This is more than the buzzer beater winning point at a basketball game. It is more like sowing seeds and hoping the efforts will result in a bountiful harvest. When things happen that celebrate life, love, and good health, we want to turn to the source of all of life, our merciful God shown most clearly to us in Jesus, and give thanks. For people of faith, it is hard not to share our joy with our Lord when hearts are full of thankfulness. When hopes and dreams come true, when birth happens, when relationships are restored, when natural disasters subside, when wars cease, when the fear of death is swallowed up in new life, thanksgiving is the way to express our delight and our joy in the presence of God. Talk or think about a joyful experience that led you to give thanks to God. Pray: **God of abundance, we thank you for all the good in life, for beauty, for bountiful harvests, for peace among neighbors and nations, and for the gift of faith through Jesus, the Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

Give thanks for all the blessings in your life this Thanksgiving. Think of those who are less fortunate than yourself. Many people, due to circumstances such as age, illness or homelessness, may not have the opportunity to celebrate Thanksgiving with loved ones. How can you extend Thanksgiving blessings to others this week?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

For Christians, thanksgiving is a way of life. On this day of giving thanks, take time to gather with family and friends to list what God has done for you to give you a thankful heart. Make the list into a prayer by saying: **Dear God, thank you for _____.**

MILESTONES MINISTRY
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Northern Great
Lakes Synod
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.

November

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